THE STORY of the THIRTY-EIGHTH

by

LIEUTENANT C. E. LOVEJOY.

To General Liggett –
with profound respects and admiration

C. E. Lovejoy
Brookville, N. Y.
May 28, 1927

THE STORY of the THIRTY-EIGHTH

by

C. E. LOVEJOY
First Lieutenant, 38th U. S. Infantry

Edition of 5,700.

DEDICATION.

To the memory of 731 officers and men of the Thirty-eighth Infantry who gave their lives in The Greatest War this book is reverently dedicated.

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COLONEL FRANK H. ADAMS
Thirty-eighth United States Infantry.

CITATION
A L'Ordre de L'Armée.

Le 38eme Régiment d'Infanterie Américaine.

Régiment d'élite qui, sous le commandement énergique et habile de son Chef, le Colonel MacAlexander, a fait preuve d'une ténacité inébranlable au cours de l'attaque allemande du 15 Juillet 1918. Attaqué de front, débordé á droite et á gauche sur plusieurs kilometres, fidele á sa consigne, resta malgré tout sur le bord de la Marne, rejeta l'ennemi supérieur en nombre et lui fit plus de deux cents prisonniers.

(Ordre No. 10805 "D".)

Au Grand Quartier Général le 22 Octobre 1918,
Le Général Commandant en Chef

PETAIN.

(French Army citation given in conjunction with the award of Croix de Guerre with Palm to the regimental colors.)

FOREWORDS.

by

MAJOR GENERAL J. T. DICKMAN,
Commanding Third Army,
Army of Occupation.

Between Chateau-Thierry and Dormans, the Marne is a navigable stream, which flows in a deep valley. The crest of the banks is about 400 feet above the level of the river. The strategical feature of the stretch of 20 kilometers between Chateau-Thierry and Dormans is the valley of Surmelin Creek. This valley furnishes the only good opening towards the south. The railroad and two good wagon roads in this valley running towards Condé en Brie and Montmirail are indispensable for the line of supply of an Army crossing the Marne.

Early in July 1918, the 3rd Division held about 10 kilometers of front along the meanderings of the Marne from the suburbs of Chateau-Thierry to a point about 2 kilometers east of Mézy. This front was divided into 4 sectors and the 38th Infantry occupied the right sector of about 2 kilometers, its eastern boundary running south by Moulin Ruiné and Ferme Janvier. It thus held the mouth and both banks of the Surmelin Creek and the slopes of the valley on both sides as far south as St. Eugène. The crest of the hills to the east was held by the 125th Division of the French Army, and the hills on the west were occupied by the 30th Infantry.

After a heavy bombardment of two hours and forty minutes and under cover of a smoke cloud, the enemy crossed

the Marne at earliest break of day and attacked the positions of the 38th Infantry and of the adjoining 125th French Division. During the course of the engagement the 38th Infantry was forced to defend itself on the left as well as in front, and on account of the withdrawal of the French Division the right flank of its position was completely turned. A battery stationed at Ferme Janvier, 5 kilometers in rear of the right of the 38th Infantry, was abandoned by its escort and the guns were captured by the enemy after they had fired all their own ammunition and that of the French battery stationed with it.

The situation of the regiment thus became critical and after repeated consultations its Commanding Officer, Colonel U. G. McAlexander, finally was authorized by the Division Commander to readjust the positions of his battalions in support and in reserve so as to best oppose a further advance of the enemy from the east with a view to forcing a crossing of Surmelin Creek.

In the fighting on the front and flanks of the 38th Infantry, the enemy's losses were so great that his offensive was completely shattered and the attack was not renewed. The regiment was still in good condition and its fighting capacity was unimpaired.

The defeat of the enemy on the Marne July 15th, 1918, definitely marked the transition for him from the offensive to the defensive. The heroic stand of the 38th Infantry stopped the enemy's advance towards Paris and made possible the counter-attack at Soissons three days later.

One of the brightest pages in the history of the American Expeditionary Forces was written on this day by the 38th Infantry, and no soldier can have a prouder title than ability to state that he fought with the 38th Infantry in the defence of the Marne.

by

BRIGADIER GENERAL O. E. HUNT,
Commanding 6th Brigade, 3rd Division.

The Officers and Men of the 38th Infantry:

Words of appreciation are often applied inopportunely and savor then of flattery; admiration opportunely expressed and coming genuinely from the heart encourages the recipient in greater efforts to merit its continuance.

Greater praise no men can receive than that contained in the simple words which you have so well earned: „They do their best".

Your admirers are those who know your spirit from intimate association; your flatterers envy your reputation and selfishly hope to gain by excessive appreciation.

I count myself amongst your admirers.

by

BRIGADIER GENERAL U. G. McALEXANDER,
Commanding 180th Brigade, 90th Div.

Do you wish an invincible, unconquerable regiment? Then organize it, administer it, train it and fight it along invincible and unconquerable lines. Imbue it with a pride that scoffs at danger, inspire it with a soul of intrepidity and honor and make it to KNOW that its defeat is impossible, that it may be killed but that it cannot be conquered.

Such an organization is the 38th U. S. Infantry.

„THE ROCK OF THE MARNE'S REGIMENT".

by

BRIGADIER GENERAL J. C. CASTNER,
Commanding 9th Brigade, 5th Division.

I took command of the 38th Infantry as its Colonel about November 2, 1917 when its total strength in officers

and men was about one-third of the strength of a war strength regiment, and besides myself there were only two officers (Captains) present for duty, who had been officers of our army for more than three months. My efforts to secure Captains and Field Officers of recognized ability were successful, and together we worked to the best of our abilities to train and discipline our raw material. There was no place in our command for the officer or soldier who did not work, if we could find him out, and with such a standard of measure, we built up a regiment whose subsequent history speaks for itself.

It was my misfortune to be promoted a Brigadier General too soon (in May 1918) and I lost, to my everlasting regret, the pleasure and satisfaction all officers feel in seeing the officers and men they commanded and helped to train in battle for the first time.

But my thoughts and good wishes have ever been with my first regiment, and I here thank all its officers and men who so loyally supported me, and congratulate them, and glory in the splendid record they made in the great world war.

by

COLONEL FRANK H. ADAMS,

Thirty-eighth Infantry.

The „Story of the Thirty-eighth Infantry", written by Lieut. C. E. Lovejoy, (a member of the Regiment since its organization) is compiled from official records and information given by officers and men of the Regiment. It is a story of achievement and a record of welldoing.

PREFACE.

In offering this history of the Thirty-eighth U. S. Infantry to the library of American military literature, in general, and to the 3,600 members of the regiment, in particular, there have been several aims from the start. No attempt has been made to proclaim the Thirty-eighth as the winner of the war. Champions of some few regiments of the Regular Army and Marines seem to have inclined toward such ridiculous extremes, but without success.

On the contrary, an endeavor has been made to depict clearly and accurately the organization of the regiment, its steps in training for war, and its share in making history. In the Second Battle of the Marne the Thirty-eighth played a pivotal part of importance. This battle has been regarded by the majority of military critics as a turning point in the war. Granting this, then, it fell to the lot of this regiment to appear in an exceptional role and there is no disputing its brilliant fighting. In the Argonne-Meuse offensive, too, the Thirty-eighth drew an assignment of prominence. These battles, actions, and engagements have therefore been described in this book colorfully, as well as truthfully. And due credit is accorded to the organizations who fought alongside and in support.

The effort has been sincere to make this a story, rather than a history. It is intended to be a narrative, not a tabulation of bald-faced episodes, ambiguous technique and strategical tactics. The book was not conceived with the aim of personal literary achievement for its author. Its preparation was undertaken solely because of a deep and sincere pride in a great regiment whose story deserves to be told.

Written, as it was, during the period of occupation in Germany, many desired data were unavailable. Many regimental records were stored in France and consequently inaccessible. In view of the

uncertain length of the stay along the Rhine, the book was in many respects hurriedly written. Time was an all-important element and less than one month was devoted to its preparation. Mistakes will be noticed, errors in dates and events discovered. Apology is made for all of them. The book is being printed in a German establishment where linotype operators know no English, where make-up men are unfamiliar with American methods and conventions of publishing, where careful proof-reading is lacking.

A great part of the material is written entirely from the author's memory, and no means exist for checking exactly times and places. To the other units of the Thirty-eighth, apology is made if the Third Battalion is unfairly emphasized, for the author saw all his fighting as a member of it. The trend toward such emphasis, however, has been conscientiously avoided.

But if this volume is found fairly complete, if it is found to be a fairly comprehensive story of the "Rock of the Marne regiment", if it becomes, therefore, a souvenir for the members of the organization, then it will have served the purpose intended.

To Colonel Frank H. Adams, 38th Infantry, gratitude is expressed for his constant interest in the preparation of this book, for the helpfulness of his suggestions, and for the use of his private papers and reports. To Captain Robert G. Moss, 38th Infantry, who was to have been joint author but who was prevented by reason of his confining duties as regimental adjutant, especial thanks are paid for his co-operation and advice.

The help of Lieutenant Ambrose F. White, 38th Infantry in handling proofs is appreciated sincerely.

Clarence Earle Lovejoy.

Niedermendig,
Rhineland Province,
Germany
Feb. 4, 1919.

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INTRODUCTION.

Some regiments are truly great. And others may be only near-great, or even good, fair or poor. But when a regiment of United States troops faces a mighty enemy drive under the conditions of modern warfare, when that regiment finds itself all but surrounded on three sides at the end of hours of tooth-and-nail fighting, when that regiment stands fast, shatters the attack against it, and then surges forward in a counter blow—those deeds are never to be passed unnoticed and unchronicled. When this same regiment later battles through streams of lead and iron from enemy machine guns and artillery, never halts but steps over its own dead and wounded and breaks through a hitherto impregnable series of field fortifications to reach its objective—that feat is not to be lost and forgotten.

Such a regiment is the Thirty-eighth.

As the weeks of the Summer and Fall of 1918 passed, little by little the world began to hear of such happenings in France. The censorship lid was tilted occasionally. And in November, after the armistice had been signed, it became known generally that it was the Thirty-eighth Infantry which had stood in the way of German ambitions at the „Gateway to Paris" in the mighty July drive. And then what an array of field marshals, generals, colonels and lesser folk recalled that week in mid-Summer, pondered over it, and began to marvel at its significance! By the majo-

rity, that July fighting on the Marne is regarded as the turning point in the war.

Marshal Petain of France took his pen in hand and wrote out an Army Citation, of which the following is a translation:-

CITATION
To the Order of the Army
The 38th Regiment of American Infantry

An elite regiment, under the energetic and keen command of its chief, Colonel Mac Alexander, has given proof of an unshakable tenacity in the course of the German attack of the 15th of July, 1918. Attacked in front, exposed on the right and left for several kilometres, faithful to its mission, it remained in spite of everything on the bank of the Marne, threw back the enemy superior in number, and took from him more than two hundred prisoners.

(Order No. 10805 "D").

Great Headquarters, 22 Oct. 1918
The General, Commander in Chief
PETAIN

Along with this elaborate document, embossed and engraved in colors and which forever will be guarded in regimental archives, came a decoration for the regimental colors. It was no ordinary decoration, either. It was the Croix de Guerre with Palm.

What every American newspaper editor had been looking forward to was released for publication early in December. It was General Pershing's complete story of our army in France, and cabled on Nov. 20 from Chaumont to Secretary of War Baker. This report from the Commander-in-Chief was first published as an appendix to the Secretary's Annual Report and made public in the newspapers on the morning of Dec. 5, 1918.

General Pershing gave particulars of the Marne fighting, described the actions of each division engaged, and referred

to a "single regiment" which had written "one of the most brilliant pages in the annals of military history." Newspapers at once clamored to know the name of this regiment. In an editorial in The New York Times, the writer requested the following:-

„The only thing to regret about this dramatic story is that the General still sticks to the rule adopted at the beginning of the war, against identifying those who have performed heroic actions, and says, for instance, of the great battle of Chateau Thierry, "A single regiment of the 3rd wrote one of the most brilliant pages in our military annals of this occasion." Might we not, at this late date, know officially the name of that regiment?"

In a few more days correspondents on all sides mailed to the press statements and extracts from overseas letters, insisting that it was this or that regiment which had been indicated in the report. Unofficially, the arguments dwindled down to the certainty that it was either the 30th or Thirty-eighth regiment. And right here Colonel Charles Crawford, who, as Brigadier General Crawford commanded the 6th Brigade during that Marne fighting in July, made the deciding announcement to the newspaper men. An excerpt from his statement, as it appeared in The New York Times, follows:-

„In the interest of history he desired to announce that this organization was the 38th Infantry, (regulars), commanded by Colonel Ulysses G. McAlexander, with Colonel Frank H. Adams second in command.

„Under the cover of darkness . . . . the Germans crossed the Marne in front of the 30th Infantry, holding the left of the brigade line, where this regiment had a wide area to defend, and also to the right of the 38th Infantry, and overwhelmed the outposts along the bank.

„When daylight came, therefore, the 38th Infantry found Germans on three sides of them who were trying to organize

their troops for a general advance according to their prearranged plan.

„But so heavy was the fire of all kinds, including artillery, and so desperate were the close-in attacks made upon them by the 38th Infantry that about 7.30 o'clock in the morning all Germans who had not been killed in front of the 30th Infantry, and in front of and to the left of the 38th Infantry, which had now occupied a salient, surrendered."

„The 30th Infantry sent back about 175 prisoners, while the 38th accounted for nearly 500."

In an editorial article which appeared in The New York World commenting on the casualty figures of the war, one finds the following:-

„At the Second Marne the 38th Regiment, regulars, held off five times its number, despite enormous losses. In this battle, one of the most dramatic and important in the world's history, we had, according to Pershing's report, 300,000 men, about as many as the Allied Armies at Leipzig, or at least 50 percent. more than all the armies at Waterloo."

It remained, however, for a bulletin from 3rd Division headquarters to send broadcast and stamp as official the truth about the Marne fighting. During December Major General Howze had issued the following which paraphrases some of General Pershing's report and adds comment and explanation:-

HEADQUARTERS THIRD DIVISION
Second Section, G. S.

No. 5. 16 December 1918.

BULLETIN OF INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION

In his preliminary report of the activities of the American Army over seas, as published in the daily papers, General Pershing pays tribute to the memorable exploits of the Third Division in the various operations of the past year.

Regarding the German Thrust across the Aisne toward Paris, he writes:

„Again every available man was placed at Marshal Foch's disposal and the Third Division, which had just come from preliminary training in the trenches, was hurried to the Marne. Its motorized machine gun battalion preceded the other units and successfully held the bridgehead of the Marne opposite Chateau Thierry." (The 7th Machine Gun Battalion is referred to in the above quotation.)

x x x x x x

„The Third Division held the Marne line opposite Chateau Thierry against a powerful artillery and Infantry attack." (In the Chateau Thierry fight the entire Third Division took part, being squarely across the main effort of the German thrust which was broken and thrown back in confusion across the Marne.)

x x x x x x

Further the Commander-in-Chief writes: „A single regiment of the Third Division wrote one of the most brilliant pages in the annals of military history in preventing the crossing at certain points on its front, while on either flanks the Germans, who had gained a footing, pressed forward. Our men were firing in three directions, met the German attack with counter-attacks at critical points and succeeded in throwing two German divisions into complete coufusion, capturing 600 prisoners." The regiment receiving this splendid reference is the 38th Infantry. It has good reason for pride, and is to be congratulated that its great fight is made a matter of official record by the Commander-in-Chief, as should the 7th Machine Gun Battalion and the entire Division. The tide of the German invasion broke and ebbed from the moment its attack broke against the front of the Third Division.

ROBERT McCLEAVE
Colonel, G. S.
Chief of Staff.

OFFICIAL
GEORGE N. NORTHROP
Major, U. S. A.
Acting Assistant Chief of Staff
G. 2

The regimental scrap-book of the Thirty-eighth includes many more such bouquets and compliments and several must be included in this introduction. If any man of this regiment has a weak, flat chest they will serve as a certain cure for it. And to the friends and outside admirers of the Thirty-eighth they should be a matter of interest.

Here follow four paragraphs from Major Frederick Palmer's latest book, „America in France":-

The regiment which held this Mezy-Surmelin sector was to immortalize it-self by a classic example of coolness, courage and tenacity. Its skill and care in the disposition of its forces in conjunction with the machine guns, in anticipation of the attack, made its remarkable defense possible . . . . . Our men realized the meaning of the smoke screen and also the intensified bombardment of their positions, which accompanied it with a view to keeping them to the cover of their rifle pits. They were too keen on getting a chance at a target not to expose themselves in the midst of the bursting shells. The place to stop the Germans was on the river. They were tacticians enough to appreciate this; and the preoccupation of the marksman possessed them. The smoke screen was thin enough in places to reveal masses of the crossing parties on the surface of the Marne. In the bend of the Marne at the mouth of the Surmelin, not a German was able to land. Packed together, twenty men to a boat, the results at close range can be imagined. Boats capsized as dead and wounded men dropped over the gunwales, and survivors jumped overboard to save their lives into the water which was whipped by rifle and machine gun fire.

It is estimated that in all twenty boats were sunk or sent drifting harmlessly down the stream; and all this because men who had been taught how to shoot, as General Pershing had insisted, had such confidence in their rifles that they exposed themselves contrary to German expectations. . . . . .

Colonel McAlexander of the 38th Infantry Regiment had orders to hold his positions, and he held his positions. If his men had broken they would have been surrounded and our whole system of defense would have been threatened. The marvel of the accomplishment of our 38th Regiment can be appreciated only by one who realizes the difficulty of secu-

ring information about what is happening in the thick of battle and making your disposition fit emergencies We acted upon the principle that if the Germans had us in flank we also had them in flank when we faced about and attacked them. But the deciding factor was the unflinching courage of our men and their aggressive spirit. This action is worthy of attention as exhibiting about all the requirements in officers and men that go to make military efficiency. It is a military classic . . . . . .

It was gratifying to know that America had done her part in conjunction with the French, the British and the Italian forces which were engaged on July 15th; and the report of our taking over six hundred prisoners from the German attacking forces as we beat them back was not the least pleasant item of the communiqué which brought to an apprehensive world the word that the fifth German offensive was repulsed.

These bulletins and orders have been issued from various headquarters during the Summer and Fall:-

VIth Army
38th Army Corps
Personnel
No. 7505/P.

H. Q. 17 July 1918

GENERAL ORDER No. 344

During the night of the 14th to the 15th of July, after an extremely violent bombardment with gas and high explosive shells, the enemy succeeded in crossing the MARNE and in hurling one of his shock divisions against the positions of the 3rd Div. U. S.

Shortly afterwards, this vigorous offensive of the Germans was supported by a flank attack executed by the units of a new Division.

After having withdrawn slightly under the shock, the American Troops, in the course of a spirited counter-attack, regained all the lost terrain, inflicting heavy losses on the enemy and taking several hundred prisoners.

The General Commanding the 38th Army Corps congratulates the troops of the 3rd Div U. S., and especially the 30th and 38th Infantry regiments, on their brilliant conduct.

He is proud of having these troops under his command.

The General Commanding the 38th Army Corps
(s) DE MONDESIR

Official
The Chief of Staff.

HEADQUARTERS THIRD DIVISION (REGULAR)
AMERICAN EXPEDITIONARY FORCES
USAPO 740. 31 July 1918.

GENERAL ORDERS
No. 28.

The following communication from the Commanding General, 6th French Army, is published for the information of all concerned and will be read to all units at the first assembly formation after receipt of this order:

Army Headquarters
VIth Army 29 July 1918.
No. 2354/3

From : Division General DEGOUTTE,
Commanding the VIth Army.

To : General DICKMAN,
Commanding the 3rd Div., U. S.

At the moment when the 3rd Division U. S. is withdrawn from the front, I desire to address to General Dickman and to the splendid troops which he commands, the expression of my high regard.

After having held firmly at the time of the attack of the 15th July, the Sector of the MARNE entrusted to its keeping, repulsed with a superb spirit the enemy elements which had succeeded in crossing the river, and made more than 400 prisoners, the 3rd Division U. S. was brought across to the North of the Marne, into a sector of attack. As the result of heavy fighting, it achieved an important advance marked by the successive capture of the villages of Mont

St. Pere, Charteves, Jaulgonne, le Charmel, and pushed elements as far as the Ourcq.

This brilliant Unit thus demonstrated, after having given proof of its tenacity in the defense, the finest offensive qualities.

I thank from the bottom of my heart General Dickman and the 3rd Division U. S. for all that they have done for France.

DEGOUTTE

By command of Major General Dickman:
Robert H. C. Kelton
Colonel, General Staff,
Chief of Staff.

Official:
E. A. Jeunet
Lt. Colonel, Infantry, R. A.
Adjutant.

❁ ❁ ❁ ❁ ❁ ❁ ❁

G. H. Q.
AMERICAN EXPEDITIONARY FORCES,

General Orders
No. 143

France, August 28, 1918.

It fills me with pride to record in General Orders a tribute to the service and achievements of the First and Third Corps, comprising the 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 26th, 28th, 32nd and 42nd Divisions of the American Expeditionary Forces.

You came to the battlefield at the crucial hour of the Allied cause. For almost four years the most formidable army the world had as yet seen had pressed its invasion of France, and stood threatening its capitol. At no time had the army been more powerful or menacing than when, on July 15th, it struck again to destroy in one great battle the brave men opposed to it and to enforce its brutal will upon the world and civilization.

Three days later, in conjunction with our Allies, you counter-attacked. The allied armies gained a brilliant victory that marks the turning point of the war. You did more than give our brave Allies the support to which as a nation our faith was pledged. You proved that our altruism, our

pacific spirit, our sense of justice have not blunted our virility or our courage. You have shown that American initiative and energy are as fit for the test of war as for the pursuits of peace. You have justly won the unstinted praise of our Allies and the eternal gratitude of our countrymen.

We have paid for our success in the lives of many of our brave comrades. We shall cherish their memory always and claim for our history and literature their bravery, achievement and sacrifice.

This order will be read to all organizations at the first assembly formation after its receipt.

JOHN J. PERSHING
General, Commander in Chief.

Official:
ROBERT C. DAVIS
Adjutant General.

HEADQUARTERS THIRD DIVISION.
AMERICAN EXPEDITIONARY FORCES
USAPO 740 — 22 DECEMBER 1918

BULLETIN:

1. General Pershing paid the following tribute to the memorable exploits of the Third Division on the Marne: „A single regiment of the Third Division wrote one of the most brilliant pages in the annals of military history in preventing the crossing of certain points on its front, while on either flank, the Germans, who had gained a footing, pressed forward. Our men were firing in three directions, met the German attacks with counter attacks at critical points and succeeded in throwing two German divisions into complete confusion, capturing 600 prisoners“ — — — „The Third Division held the Marne line opposite CHATEAU THIERRY against a powerful artillery and infantry attack.

2. In view of the excellent record, the Division Commander, Major General Joseph T. Dickman, now in command of the Third American Army, the Army of Occupation, conferred upon the division the title of „Marne Division“.

3. In October, while the division was fighting in the Argonne, the divisional insignia was designated. The emblem is three white stripes diagonally superimposed upon a square field of royal blue. The three stripes are symbolic of the three operations in which the division participated, namely, the MARNE, ST. MIHIEL, and the ARGONNE-MEUSE. The blue field is symbolic of the loyalty of those who placed their lives on the altar of self-sacrifice in defense of the American ideals of liberty and democracy.

BY COMMAND OF MAJOR GENERAL HOWZE:
ROBERT McCLEAVE,
Colonel, General Staff,
Chief of Staff.

OFFICIAL:
MADISON PEARSON,
Major, Infantry
Adjutant.

CHAPTER I

BIRTH OF THE THIRTY-EIGHTH.

There were no loud cheers of welcome, no beating of drums or blowing of trumpets or celebration of any other kind to mark the start in life of the Thirty-eighth Infantry. It was a quiet, almost unnoticed, occasion with no pretentions. Indeed, a more unconventional birth than that which ushered the Thirty-eighth into the world is unknown in the annals of regiments of United States soldiers.

One day a part of an old organization with a fine record, the following morning found officers and men shunted out and cast aside, told that they were the Thirty-eighth, and now make the best of it. There was no equipment, no records, hardly a piece of scratch paper and a stub of a pencil with which to begin work. For the following few weeks the entire regiment had no home of its own and was actually attached for rations, lining up three times daily to the kitchens of the mother organization. Modern improvements came slowly, but one by one came a commanding officer, an adjutant, and a non-commissioned staff. And then followed some little equipment, a few kitchens, and a band, and with this last named necessary appendage to every good regiment, the Thirty-eighth began to take on the appearance of a separate, qualified and distinct unit.

The day war was declared, April 6, 1917, may be taken as really the first occasion when the regiment was

projected. That morning found the United States Army with 37 regiments of regular infantry and no more. Every old soldier in the service knew that automatically additional organizations of the regular establishment must be created. The great majority of the United States forces was then doing border service in Texas posts and camps, and in a few days the War Department issued the announcement that practically each one of the regular regiments would be split into three parts, each part to comprise the nucleus of a new organization. The number „38" would therefore designate the very first new regiment created.

Eagle Pass, Texas, was garrisoned in the Spring of 1917 by several regular army outfits, not the least of which was the 30th Infantry, commanded then by Colonel A. P. Buffington. On May 19 it received orders to proceed to Syracuse, N. Y. where a regular army organization center was to be established, and from that date officers, non-coms and buck privates began to lay their bets on whether they would stay with their old regiment.

En route north, on May 23, telegraphic instructions from the War Department indicated that two new organizations, the Thirty-eighth and 39th regiments of infantry, would be constituted. Two days later Colonel Buffington detrained his troops on a siding at the Syracuse State Fair Grounds and began to turn into a real, live military post the famous estate where the fastest horses in central New York State are raced each Fall. Major General C. G. Morton soon became commanding officer of this camp, and about this time the 9th and 23rd Infantry regiments were joining the colony there.

A fine big structure, the Liberal Arts Building, became the barracks for the 30th Infantry, and there, on June 1, 1917, Colonel Buffington dictated and issued „G. O. No. 6, Headquarters 30th Infantry", which officially brought into the world the Thirty-eighth. One third of the commissioned and enlisted strength of the 30th was straightway transferred, comprising 13 officers and 574 enlisted men of all

grades, and on the same day morning reports were started and signed in the name of Thirty-eighth Infantry.

That general order follows in part:-

HEADQUARTERS THIRTIETH INFANTRY,
State Fair Grounds, Syracuse, N. Y.,
June 1, 1917.

GENERAL ORDERS:
No. 6

1. In compliance with telegraphic instructions from The Adjutant General of the Army, dated, Washington, D. C., May 23, 1917, the following named officers of the 30th Infantry are transferred to the 38th Infantry, to take effect this date.

Major Harry H. Tebbetts
Captain Walter B. McCaskey
Captain George C. Shaw
Captain Deshler Whiting
Captain Charles H. Mason
Captain Irving J. Palmer
1st Lieutenant Maxon S. Lough
1st Lieutenant Rudolph G. Whitten
2nd Lieutenant John L. Dunn
2nd Lieutenant Robert G. Moss
2nd Lieutenant George H. Butler
2nd Lieutenant Robert B. Moore
2nd Lieutenant Louis Roberts

x x x x x x

35. All officers and enlisted men transferred to the 38th and 39th regiments of Infantry are attached to the 30th Infantry until further orders.

By order of Colonel BUFFINGTON,
F. F. Jewett,
Capt. & Adjt., 30th Infantry.

Major Tebbetts never joined the new regiment and Major Isaac Erwin, who was substituted, was absent on

leave at the time of the separation. Several of the other officers named in the order were on detached service at the training camps, and Captain Whiting became actually the first commanding officer of the Thirty-eighth. Lieutenant Butler assumed the duties of acting adjutant but was relieved a week later when Lieutenant Whitten was appointed to the office, and the latter in turn was succeeded for a short time by Captain Palmer.

Captain Charles F. Thompson reported for duty on June 25, and on the first regimental special order issued, dated June 29, was named the adjutant. By this time a non-commissioned staff for headquarters had been adjusted. Battalion Sergeant Major J. Sidney Wells acted as regimental sergeant major, and his assistants in headquarters were Battalion Sergeant Major William H. Farnham and Color Sergeant Walter D. Peterman, each of whom later became regimental sergeant major.

For the first weeks the separation was not nearly so complete as it would seem. To be sure, a headquarters was established in another corner of the immense Liberal Arts building, but the troops continued to sleep on cots all under the one roof and the men designated to form the Thirty-eighth continued to eat at the corresponding companies in the old regiment. They were, in fact, platoons only, detached for drill and administration. It was not until about the middle of June that the Thirty-eighth began to draw its own rations and feed its men. Four kitchens were then set up and a consolidated mess established.

Recruits began to join, coming from the regular army depots at Fort Slocum, Jefferson Barracks, Jackson Barracks, and Columbus Barracks, and by the end of the month the total enlisted strength was 1112. These newcomers could not be accomodated in the already crowded building, but streets of tents were set up on the grounds.

Queer and amusing yarns are spun by the first sergeants. The majority of these recruits arrived in civilian clothes and for several weeks no uniforms for issue could

be obtained. In several instances first sergeants hardly knew their own clerks by sight, and attempts to muster a company of the new regiment, or even to have a roll call, resulted in the most hopeless kind of confusion. Sergeants would start out at reveille and after a search of the entire camp they would return at noon with still a dozen members of the company unaccounted for.

Many of these sergeants themselves were wearing the diamond chevron for the first time. In dividing the 30th the method was for company commanders to draw lots among the first, mess and supply sergeants. One would be retained as first sergeant of the old regiment and the two others would become the first sergeants of either the Thirty-eighth or 39th. The Thirty-eighth drew the following: Co. A, James A Davis; Co. B, John M. Coughlin; Co. C, Kay McAllister; Co. D, E. Roberts; Co. E, Lee Castle; Co. F, Tony Riffle; Co. G, R. M. Barr; Co. H, M. J. Connolly; Co. I, Morgan S. Smith; Co. K, Charles F. Eggler; Co. L, E. L. Gorman; Co. M, John M. Jewell; machine gun company, Thomas C. Williams; headquarters company, George H. Pryor; supply company, John Murray.

Real progress began to be made in organization during July. The band, the majority of whom were recruited as a body in Chicago, joined early in the month. Uniforms and equipment began to arrive. And by the end of the month the numerical strength had increased so that each company took on the appearance of a real unit. Newly commissioned officers from the second camp at Fort Leavenworth and from the ranks brought the total up to 23 and recruits continually arriving from the regular army receiving barracks increased the enlisted strength to 1921.

Colonel William R. Sample was assigned to the Thirty-eighth by War Department S. O 145, but he never joined, continuing his duties at Madison Barracks. Major Erwin received his promotion to lieutenant colonel on one day and the day following found himself a full colonel, and in August he was transferred to a command at Camp Upton,

Yaphank, N. Y., leaving the regiment in the guiding hands of Captain Harry D. Mitchell, who had recently come from the Canal Zone where he had made a record in organizing and operating the public safety department. His command of the Thirty-eighth was continuous for nearly three months following.

During the first three days of August the connecting ties with the 30th were severed completely. The regiment was moved from the State Fair Grounds to Stephens Hill, about six miles north of the city of Syracuse, where an immense regular army tent camp was being formed, including the 9th, 23rd, 30th, Thirty-eighth, 39th, 47th, 48th, 49th, and 50th regiments of infantry.

Here the regiment had ample space to function and to carry on its work of organization and training. Water works and drains were piped throughout the camp, tents were framed and floored, and substantial mess halls erected, and all in all life on Stephens Hill proved satisfactory. Even if rainy days came frequently and cold nights began in September, those few hardships were more than offset by the genuine welcome and treatment offered to the regiment by the people of Syracuse. The verdict throughout the Thirty-eighth is unanimous that Syracuse is the very best kind of a city for soldiers. And that this feeling is reciprocal is affirmed by the praises heaped upon the regiment during the fighting in France and the occupation in Germany. The press have named the Thirty-eighth „Syracuse's own".

The end of August found a considerable increase in the commissioned strength. At the close of the first series of training camps, 33 second lieutenants from Plattsburgh Barracks were assigned to the Thirty-eighth, joining on August 29 and bringing the total number of officers to 56.

A retrospect made in January, 1919, as these chapters are being written, shows the affects of war on a fighting regiment. Of the original 13 officers only two, Major Lough and Captain Moss, remain on duty. Of those who joined

in July 1917, Captain Claude E. Gaskins is alone in his distinction. And of the 40 or more officers who joined in August, the third month of the regiment's career, only eight are still with the regiment. They are Captain T. F. Bresnahan and First Lieutenants H. Q. Moore, C. E. Lovejoy, B. L. Lucas, H. W. Hilliard, H. C. Merritt, W. C. Thompson and C. W. Lugton. The number of enlisted men of all grades still remaining who formed the nucleus of the regiment can be written in two figures.

Whereas the strength in officers increased during August and also in September, several hundred enlisted men were transferred during these two months to help in the organization of the provisional machine gun battalions formed in Syracuse for the 2nd Division. Friends in these new units and in the 9th and 23rd regiments bade good bye the first week in September when the 2nd Division troops left Syracuse for overseas.

Equipment and particularly uniforms were slow in arriving, and week after week during September and October platoons that were springled freely with recruits wearing derby hats and white collars marched to the drill grounds. Training advanced from the guard duty and close order stages to simple field service problems and terrain exercises. No rifle shooting, however, was ever possible at Syracuse because of the lack of a range.

Systems of intrenchments were constructed, first in accordance with I. D. R. specifications, and later in replica of actual fortifications in France. Captain de Casteja, a patient, well-informed and able officer from a French regiment of Chasseurs, reported early in October as the first foreign instructor for the Thirty-eighth. And it may be said in all fairness to his successors from foreign armies that his instruction at Syracuse, both in the field and in the lecture hall, gave the regiment a well grounded basis for its training.

Changes in officers continued, that of regimental adjutant seemingly the most often altered. Captain Thompson

early in the Summer was transferred to Fort Sill and his successor for several weeks was Lieutenant Daniel M. Cheston. When the latter became a major in the non-flying section of the Aviation Corps, Lieutenant A. H. Below became acting adjutant. During this period on Stephens Hill new officers joined weekly. The 1918 class from West Point, graduated in August 1917, sent two of its representatives, and the third class of lieutenants from Fort Leavenworth contributed several more.

Captain Mitchell, as commanding officer, lost no time in setting about to instill „pep' into the organization. A regimental spirit must be inculcated. And it was. Probably the first means to the end was the band and with Bandmaster Albert L. Mouquin handling the baton it soon became one of the best in the post. Every last recruit was taught early to say that and believe it. Athletics came in for a share on the daily program. After a period of training on the parade grounds, the sprinters entered a field meet at the State Fair Grounds during Fair Week and came home heaped with the honors of winning first places in the majority of events, although losing the meet by the barest margin of points.

The first social event in the Thirty-eighth's history proved to be a gala success. It was a reception, dinner and dance held at the Hotel Onondaga early in October. Following a talk by Captain Mitchell, who traced briefly the growth of the regiment from its infancy to fighting size, the wives and friends were formally and officially received as ex-officio members of the Thirty-eighth for all time.

It was through no fault of the regiment that a departure from Syracuse had to be made. And it was certainly not the wishes of the people of the city. They even went to the extent of sending a committee to the Secretary of War urging that the troops be retained there for the Winter and offering to provide heated quarters.

But Stephens Hill in October gave an unmistakable warning of the bitter weather that would follow, and a move to

a warmer training locality was obviously necessary. On Oct. 26 it was announced that Camp Greene at Charlotte, N. C. was the destination and by 9,30 that night the fifth and last section had rumbled out of Syracuse bound southward. Troop movements at that time were taxing the railroads to the utmost and the best the Thirty-eighth could draw were old-fashioned day coaches for this trip of two days. The route over the 822 miles was through Harrisburg, Baltimore and Washington. The first section detrained at Charlotte on the morning of Oct. 28 but the last did not arrive until day-break on the 29th.

CHAPTER II.

REGIMENT IS BROUGHT TO FULL STRENGTH.

Impressions of the southland camp at Charlotte were varied. From the railroad, even, as the trains came to a stop in the yards the immensity of the place could be appreciated at a glance. Regimental areas and rows of mess halls extended as far as the eye could see. The weather was already warmer, a distinct improvement over the exceptionally cold month of October spent at Syracuse. Cotton fields surrounded the camp site and served to attract the interest of those who had never before ventured into Dixie.

Soldiers were immediately concerned about the town. What kind of a place is this Charlotte? It could never hope to surpass the Onondaga city in its friendliness to regulars or in its offerings of amusements. But the Thirty-eighth listened attentively to the Charlotte boosters who pointed to its industries, its streets, churches and hotels.

As the troop trains dumped their loads into „Camp No. 9", assigned to the Thirty-eighth, first expressions of approval were soon altered to ones of contempt. Brand new mess halls and kitchens served to hide the camp sites in the rear. For instead of company streets, barracks, or even pyramidal tents, there was nothing save a thick mass of fir trees and stumps. Not even a path through these woods connected the mess halls in front to the bath houses and latrines in the rear of the camp.

Camp Green was quite plainly built on a rush order and this particular part of the vast estate had never before been occupied by troops. The mess halls were erected, but only a few days before, for they were littered with shavings, pieces of board, and odds and ends which must be cleaned out. Window frames had not yet been installed. Holes for the chimneys of the ranges had not been cut, so it was necessary for the first day or two to cook the meals outside.

Cos. E and G found fairly level ground for their pup tents that first night, but try as he would, the first sergeant of any other company had no suceess in dressing his ranks preparatory to pitching the shelters. The result was company streets of the most weird kind. One street would resemble a letter „s" and another would be fashioned after an „m". All the stumps in the state of North Carolina seemed to be collected in that regimental camp.

Companies worked wonders in forestry engineering during the next few days. Stumps and roots were cut, pulled and hauled away; shaliow places filled in and hummocks shaved down to the required level; and by Nov. 1 each street was a model for inspection. They were broad, well graded, and with drains, gutters and sidewalks. Tents began to arrive, electric lights were installed and the mechanics began to turn out daily good supplies of floors and three-foot walls for the tents. Camp Greene was still unlike the new cantonments of barracks we had read about but never seen, yet it was being rounded into shape.

Changes in officers began to occur the first week at Camp Greene. Colonel J. C. Castner was the first to arrive and to give the Thirty-eighth for the first time in the five months of its existence a full colonel, with silver eagles and all the accompanying dignity. His methods, his kindliness, and even his loud stentorian voice and the fire that seemed to belch forth with his orders and commands made him endeared to the whole regiment immediately. Colonel Castner received telegraphic instructions from the A. G. O. Oct. 30 and took command immediately.

This plainly meant the regiment would lose its „old man", Captain Mitchell, who had been at the helm longer than any of his predecessors. It was with pride that we congratulated him on the morning of Nov. 15 when he appeared with bright new gold leaves on his shoulders, but a week later he had been transferred to command the newly organized 8th Machine Gun Battalion and regrets throughout the regiment were unanimous. Captain Mitchell had been an able instructor to his young, new subalterns, a competent commanding officer and an all-round good friend. With him went nine lieutenants of the Thirty-eighth to help form the new battalion. By the time the regiment had reached France Major Mitchell had been promoted and in a few more weeks he became a full colonel and has an exceptionally excellent record of hard fighting with the 165th infantry, the old 69th National Guard regiment of New York Irishmen, in the 42nd (Rainbow) Division.

Two majors joined during the subsequent weeks, Frank H. Adams and George C. Lewis. The former was to be known several months later in France as the aggressive, battle-scarred, D. S. C. wearer who commanded the „Rock of the Marne" regiment in some of its hardest fighting.

Captain R. G. Whitten was taken out of Co. F. to become regimental adjutant under Colonel Castner. Later Captains Harry J. Keeley and Guy I. Rowe reported for duty and both became battalion commanders when the regiment reached France.

So many changes in enlisted personnel were taking place that it was really not until December that company commanders could get down to the real business of training for war. On Nov. 27 sergeants, corporals and privates to the number of several hundred said good bye to old tent mates and marched across the camp to organize the three new machine gun battalions of the newly formed Third Division, which had been created four days earlier.

Until Dec. 16 only regularly volunteered enlisted men had comprised the personnel of the Thirty-eighth. Then

the first increments from national army camps in the north began to arrive to fill the regiment up to the new war strength designated in tables of organization. These drafted men were taken into the Thirty-eighth's ranks as follows:-

Dec. 16	Camp Dix, N. J.	414 men
„ 18	Camp Lee, Va.	1040 „
„ 19	Camp Lee, Va.	62 „
„ 22	Camp Dix, N. J.	54 „
„ 26	Camp Upton, N. Y.	163 „

Perhaps the Thirty-eighth was prejudiced from the very start. But at any rate the new men were badly uniformed, had almost no drilling, and too many were unable physically to stand the rain and snow and bitter cold living conditions in our camp under canvas. Daily sick calls showed an unprecedented increase in attendance, and within a fortnight deaths at Camp Greene from pneumonia and influenza were alarming the country. Unfortunate men who never had the opportunity to show their worth on the battlefield died there in North Carolina. The Thirty-eighth, of course, was not the only regiment so reduced, for these drafted men had been sent to all organizations at Camp Greene.

In his official war diary, Colonel Castner makes the following remarks:

„It seems both fitting and proper that record here be made of the unwarranted and altogether shortsighted and dangerous policy of the responsible officers at Camp Lee, Va. in sending diseased, degenerate and absolutely incompetent men to complete the organization of this regiment for overseas service. Of course, all the men from this particular camp cannot be classed as above, but they appeared in sufficient numbers to leave an indelible impression upon the memory of the regiment. The death and mortality rate took such a jump that the Commanding Officer appointed a board of officers to investigate and report upon the cause or causes of same."

Scores of these men were severed from the service on Surgeons' Certificates of Disability both at Camp Greene and while awaiting embarkation at Camp Merritt. Those who did remain with the regiment, however, became some of the best soldiers and bravest fighters and contributed their share in the battles on the Marne, the Vesle and along the Meuse.

The War Department had sent the Thirty-eighth southward to the land of sun and green fields in order to escape the Winter weather of Syracuse. But the weather in Camp Greene could hardly have been worse elsewhere in the country. Starting the first of December and continuing until February, with hardly an interval, came snow, rain, more snow, sleet, and more rain in almost daily succession. The alibi of the Charlotte natives was that 1917—18 was the bitterest Winter in history. After trying his best to drill all day in six-inch mud, it was next to impossible for a man to hope to get to town. Trolley lines missed the Thirty-eighth camp by more than a mile and no taxicab service could give satisfaction over those so-called roads.

In the city of Charlotte itself an affair was going on that seemed discouraging, at least. Civilians argued through the medium of the local press that army discipline as represented by the salute and other forms of military courtesy was wrong, autocratic and un-American. They had had national guard troops of the 41st Division in Camp Greene before the arrival of the regulars, they insisted, and no social or other distinction existed between officers and enlisted men. An isolated happening at a local country club had given birth to the uproar, and some residents of the city even went so far as to deplore the saluting of the commissioned by the un-commissioned on the streets. Page after page of newspaper space was given over to views and communications until Major General Joseph T. Dickman, the new 3rd Division commander, put a stop to the controversy by stating a few facts of the army in no uncertain terms.

CHAPTER III.

TRAINING IN CAMP GREENE.

Whatever the odds, the need of the hardest kind of training overshadowed everything else. Practically nothing except close order drill, interior guard duty, and elements of field service had been attempted in Syracuse. But these forms of training must now be succeeded by advanced instruction in the bayonet, trench fighting, the grenade, the automatic weapons, liaison, and above all the soldier's own rifle. General Pershing's order from overseas to push rifle shooting and range work without limit made it clear that there could be no delay in this instruction.

As early as Dec. 4 six companies, A, B, C, F, H and M, were sent to the sandy, wet, wind-swept range twelve miles away from camp on the Catawba River near the South Carolina border. Here for eight days in rough weather and with every condition of air and temperature against good shooting, recruits of these six companies learned for the first time the intricacies of the Springfield rifle.

In January, although good weather was still not forthcoming, each company in the regiment began sending regularly to the range details to shoot the Special Course „C". Lieut.-Col. Cromwell Stacey of the 30th Infantry had succeeded Lieut. Hanon F. Combs of the Thirty-eighth as range officer.

If every other impression of a man's life is forever blotted out, the days at the Camp Greene range will be longest

remembered. A four-hour hike brought the troops to a barren, desolate sand waste that had been a river bottom. And at the edge was located the camp of torn, tattered and leaky tents. No matter how many times in the 24 hours a man would secure and brace the guy-ropes, the chances were even that before long the terrific wind would have razed the canvas to the ground again. Day after day the company streets would be running with water from the rains that never seemed to stop, and then would come a bitter night which would freeze everything tight. Routes for transportation from Camp Greene were poor and only with the utmost difficulty could rations and the absolutely necessary supplies reach the range.

But soldiers were being taught to shoot, whatever the weather, and that was the principal aim. By the end of the month the new recruits and replacements had advanced far enough to permit collective firing in musketry problems, and in February the few Chauchat automatic rifles and the Hotchkiss machine guns used for instruction purposes in the camp schools were brought to the range and fired by the non-commissioned instructors. There were far too few to allow the privates to be trained here, and it was not until the first training area in France had been reached that the rifle and machine gun companies got their first real training in these automatic arms.

January was the worst month at Camp Greene. Successive days of snow and rain had turned the arteries of the camp into roads of red, clay mud, and it is no exaggeration to record that on the main routes toward Charlotte mud was in places three feet deep. Living in tents, many of these as yet without floors, was certain to bring sickness, and the camp hospitals became filled. About this time the city was visited by several cases of infantile paralysis with the result that Charlotte was ordered into quarantine by the authorities and only official business of an important nature would pass a man out of camp. The limits of Camp Greene in truth enclosed a guarded stockade.

Drill schedules were naturally interfered with. Daily details were continued to the rifle range, for above all shooting must be taught to the 3rd Division. The field exercises, however, were supplanted by indoor instruction and by the post schools which were organized for gas training, automatic arms, machine gun, grenade, liaison, and bayonet. Officers and men were trained under the group of French and British war veterans who came to Camp Greene to instruct.

New officers were joining the Thirty-eighth all Winter. About 30 reported Dec. 15 from the second series of training camps and by the end of January, the total was 127. There was a falling off in the enlisted strength, however, due to the deaths, sickness and results of S. C. D. and „148½ boards", and by the end of January there were only 3584 on the rolls, whereas in December the full strength of the regiment had been reached.

Lieut.-Col. Halstead Dorey, known widely in the Army for his work with training camps and while at headquarters of the Eastern Department at Governors' Island, joined the Thirty-eighth Jan 2. Captains were coming from western regiments and they included P. D. Parkinson, H. W. James, D. R. McMillan, F. E. Uhl, E. P. Denson and Hunter Harris.

The first and only social event during the four months at Camp Greene came on the night of Monday, Jan. 14. It was a brilliant reception and dance in the City Auditorium of Charlotte, with Major-General Dickman as the guest of honor.

French lessons for officers were started in January with Lieut. Henry de La Chappelle and Lieut. R. F. Bradley instructing in advanced classes and Lieut. Robert W. Doye educating the beginners. From the start these lessons were highly successful and by the time the regiment left Camp Greene substantial progress had been made.

Training was also augmented by a series of talks to officers and non-coms on equipment, discipline, hygiene and care of the feet in trench warfare. Brigadier-General

Charles Crawford, the new commander of the 6th Brigade, including the 30th and 38th regiments, gave a series of talks and later Major Adams, who had been on duty at the port of embarkation, offered helpful advice as to what equipment was needed in Europe. Major Adams' suggestions were followed implicitly. But much to the regret of many officers the foot lockers remained in storage in France for months, owing to conditions of service. With the exception of bedding rolls and hand baggage, all equipment was left in Gievres from May, 1918, to January, 1919.

Jan. 18 was a red letter day. Benedict Crowell, assistant Secretary of War, and Major-General Biddle, the assistant Chief of Staff, visited the camp and inspected the Thirty-eighth on the parade grounds. Bad weather continued and not until the middle of February could the minute inspection, to which all overseas regiments are subjected, be made. On the 11th, Col. F. M. Caldwell, Inspector General, made a thorough checking up of equipment and then passed through the ranks after Colonel Castner had drawn up the regiment on the field, studying closely the clothing, appearance and physique of each officer and man.

Since the Thirty-eighth had arrived in Camp Greene late in October rumor had followed rumor as to the date of departing for France. First it was expected early in December, then the middle of January, but in February confirmation came that the regiment was certain to embark very soon. Confidential instructions were received to designate two details of officers, one composed of debarking and billeting agents who were to begin work as soon as they reached the port in France and continue their duties until the last soldier had been placed under a roof in a French town. The other detail was to precede the regiment by one month to attend the corps schools of instruction in France.

The detail of officers and non-coms for the schools was the first to leave, entraining Feb. 14 for the port of

embarkation. Included were Majors Adams and Lewis, Captain Parkinson and Lieutenants N. H. Hunter, T. F. Bresnahan, C. R. Lugton, K. P. Murray, E. G. Herlihy, G. H. Butler, V. N. Taylor and L. W. Hilliard. Several of the older sergeants were selected, including Sergeant Connolly of Co. I and Sergeant Swanson of the machine gun company. The first move to France had now been made, and when this detail said good bye all fears that the Thirty-eighth was to be left in the States as a depot or replacement organization were dispelled. Several days later Captain Lough and his debarking and billeting assistants were ordered to start and this group of officers included Lieutenants D. E. Thebaud, Stephen Karasek, R. W. Doye, R. T. Fry and S. H. Young.

It was now merely a case of biding time. Drills quite naturally lagged, for every man in the regiment knew that very soon the trip would be under way. Company commanders polished up their company property, straightened out organization affairs and first sergeants and the clerks labored late every night clearing up remaining scraps of paper work.

Late February days were busy for all. The Thirty-eighth Infantry Post Exchange, ably conducted by Lieutenant John H. Freeman, must close shop; the mess sergeants must dispose of their extra utensils and equipment to the stay-at-home outfits; the supply sergeants must mark and stencil all boxes and crates and pack them; and the supply company must turn in its animals and wagons. Reports indicated that such needs as tobacco were scarce in France and every man piled layer after layer in the bottom of his barrack bag. Soap was next to impossible to buy in Europe, it was said, and company commanders carried along large supplies for the men

By March 1 days began to get unusually long and monotonous as the order to leave was delayed. Platoon leaders had the greatest difficulty in maintaining interest,

but the schedule was happily broken by three lectures. Colonel Applin of the British Army, and a member of the British General Staff, arrived in Charlotte and his talks to officers and sergeants on discipline and on tactics and use of the machine gun were highly interesting and instructive.

The day of days arrived March 9. Colonel Castner on that morning suspended all drills to devote each remaining minute to packing and preparing to move. That night a train section to haul company, battalion and regimental freight was loaded and started for Hoboken with Lieutenants Freeman and Joel Jordan in charge. The regiment was divided into seven sections and on the morning of March 11 the first group marched to the yards and began the train journey northward.

CHAPTER IV.

FIRST LAP TOWARD FRANCE.

Leaving Camp Greene was accomplished without regrets, without tears. There was no mistake about that. To be sure, it meant the long delayed start toward actual war, towards France, towards trenches, barbed wire, rain, mud and bullets, but by March 11, 1918 the Thirty-eighth had primed itself for this trip and welcomed the beginning of it.

It wasn't altogether Charlotte that brought about this feeling. The unpleasantness of our first few weeks had naturally been succeeded by a more agreeable intimacy with the people of this Southern manufacturing city. Churches and private homes had beckoned men of the Thirty-eighth with a hospitality that was genuine. Amusements had been furnished, dances and receptions arranged. But it was the Winter in a mud-hole of a camp and under canvas during extreme cold weather that this regiment was leaving behind. Anything could be better than the four and one-half months in Camp Greene—even the start toward the horrors of war. Men of this regiment felt certain that the mud of northern France was no worse than that here in Camp Greene or at the rifle range. We convinced ourselves that a tour of front line duty could be no more confining than the recent quarantine. And now we were leaving all these drudgeries behind. Rumors that we would embark

from Newport News had given way to the definite news that we would go to Hoboken, so that a few days around New York City seemed assured. And who couldn't be happy with that prospect?

„Good-byes" to our friends in the Fourth and Fifth divisions had been said and at 3 p. m., March 11, the first of the seven train sections necessary to move the regiment northward pulled away from Charlotte.

Col. Castner himself commanded this advance guard and included were the headquarters and machine gun companies in addition to the headquarters staff and personnel. Three other sections followed that afternoon at thirty-minute intervals.

The Thirty-eighth Infantry formally said good bye to Camp Greene at 10,55 on the next morning when the camp guard was relieved by sentinels from the 60th Infantry. Lieut.-Col. Dorey made thorough inspections of company streets and quarters and the three remaining sections mobilized in the railroad yards. A couple of hundred civilians waved „good luck" and „bon voyage" from the West Trade Street depot. Most of the sections were composed of tourist or Pullman cars, so that nearly every man had a berth for the trip, a rare improvement over the trains which had brought us to the southland.

Buried for so many months in the camps at Syracuse and Charlotte during the long training period had taken what little romance there had existed out of the soldiers' lives. But it was awakened as the sections passed through Washington, Baltimore, Wilmington and Philadelphia. Crowds thronged station platforms and hung out of factory windows waving such greetings and throwing so many kisses that we came to believe we must be heroes. The regiment had come to know the Y. M. C. A. warfare secretaries in the huts at Camp Greene, but on the trip north the American Red Cross and Jewish Welfare workers appeared for the first time, the former, represented by fashionably gowned women, who served sandwiches and hot coffee in

the Washington railroad yards. It was a delightful sensation—this attention and kindly petting we received en route to the embarkation camp—and it kept enthusiasm at a high pitch and added to our pride as soldiers.

Sections of the Thirty-eighth's succession of trains began to reach Camp Merritt, N. J. on the evening of the 12th, but it wasn't until the afternoon of Thursday, March 14, that the last company had detrained at Cresskill and had marched over to the barracks. Soldiers are naturally envious, and here men of the Thirty-eighth found a style of cantonment that again revived memories of bitter cold nights in tents at Syracuse and at Camp Greene. Here were well heated barracks, plentiful shower baths with hot water, warm mess halls. This regiment took an immediate liking to Camp Merritt.

Strange news emanated from headquarters on that Thursday afternoon as the last man had unslung his equipment in a comfortable barrack building. Orders were received to be in readiness to go aboard the transports on the following night, Friday, because the regiment was expected to sail before daylight on Saturday. This didn't at all jibe with the ideas of 3600 men as to how long the regiment should be across the river from New York City.

But Colonel Castner saw a loophole. Twenty-percent of the enlisted men and those officers not on guard or other duty received passes to spend the remainder of the afternoon and night in Manhattan. Permission to the men went to those with relatives in the vicinity.

It was a case of making the very most out of very little time. And New York must have sensed a shock as several hundred Thirty-eighth men hit the city. Returning ferries and street cars carried very happy and perhaps very boisterous men who had sandwiched in tearful farewells between gay suppers, visits to theatres and taxi rides. Perhaps it wasn't a straight-laced Methodist idea of a last night in America, yet no harm was done.

Captain Whitten, regimental adjutant, had a surprise in store about reveille time, however. „The regiment will remain here several days", he announced. And the rest of that day was spent in drawing equipment. Major E. B. Cassatt, an inspector general, took an official squint at the regiment and pronounced it fit and fine, and with that ordeal over company commanders began to draw breaths of relief.

On the next day 240 casuals from Camp Funston joined and were initiated into the Thirty eighth, to replace some of the men who were being transferred to non combatant branches of the service or who were re-entering civilian life through the S. C. D. route.

A drill schedule began on Monday, March 18. Here was a time when soldiers actually relished a program of daily work for it indicated an indefinite stay there in Camp Merritt. Battalion parades were in order and a period was given to duty sergeants to learn conversational French under Y. M. C. A. teachers.

A surprising number of trolley wrecks, grandmothers' funerals and sudden illness followed. At least that is how telegrams read from soldiers on pass who wired in for extensions. Colonel Castner's antidote, however, was a guard of more than one hundred men over the closely confined regimental area with some 35 posts, each sentinel pacing about fifteen or twenty feet Permission to visit New York was limited, and it took very wise and sophisticated soldiers to run that guard and few succeeded.

On Wednesday, March 20, orders were received for five companies to leave and on the following day the entire First Battalion and the machine gun company entrained at Dumont, N. J. Few knew the destination for secrecy was a well-practiced art around Camp Merritt in those March days.

Drilling by day and visits to New York by night continued for the rest of the regiment until the afternoon of Tuesday of the following week. Orders came in that were to cut short the gayety of the Second Battalion and on Wednesday, March 27, Cos. E and F and the regimental staff entrained

at Cresskill for Hoboken, marched through the streets and boarded „transport No. 27", later to be identified as the „Mount Vernon" and formerly the „Kronprinzessin Cecile", the famous treasure ship which put back from Halifax to Boston during the first days of the war in 1914. On March 28 Cos. G and H followed, together with headquarters and supply companies, and now the „Mount Vernon" was ready. A day's delay followed and it was not until 7.30 p. m. on Good Friday that this transport moved out into the Hudson.

The Third Battalion hung on enjoying Camp Merritt a bit longer. Although Cos. I and K passed through similar experiences on March 28, including the march through Hoboken, entering the Port of Embarkation and finding the gates promptly closed, and having coffee and sandwiches served by uniformed women of the Red Cross on the pier, it was not until March 29 that Cos. L and M boarded „transport No. 36". This ship was found to be the old German liner „President Lincoln", and although it took the Third Battalion safely across, a Hun torpedo found it on the very next trip and sent it to the bottom.

The „President Lincoln" and the „Mount Vernon" occupied adjoining slips so that the Third Battalion had the opportunity to line the rails and wave farewells as Col. Castner and his six companies moved away just at darkness March 29. On the next day, Saturday, the „President Lincoln" finished coaling and provisioning and at dark, with port-holes and all lights screened, backed into the river, nosed itself eastward and glided toward the Atlantic The entire regiment had now left America.

As the lights of lower Manhattan stayed behind over one's left shoulder why wouldn't thoughts run through the minds of Thirty-eighth men? The war in France was now our war. Life among relatives and friends was over and a few days would bring us to the battlefields. Seriousness of purpose overshadowed the recent remembrances of our stay

near New York. The President's phrase „make the world safe for democracy" stood before us as an immediate task to accomplish. And pride—real, sincere and serious pride—swelled the hearts of men of the Thirty-eighth in their mission, in their regiment, and in the country they were leaving as the shore lights grew dim and then went out. And perhaps just a tiny, little lump raised itself in a throat or two. Perhaps eyes were a bit watery, or was it the wind blowing across the bay that made them so?

CHAPTER V.

CROSSING THE ATLANTIC.

Officers and men of the First Battalion can look back with considerable satisfaction to their voyage across the Atlantic, for without a doubt this unit enjoyed by far the best and all-round most interesting trip. Leaving Camp Merritt in three sections during the afternoon of March 21, it travelled through Connecticut, Massachusetts and New Hampshire, crossing the Canadian border the night of March 22 and after still another day of rather slow progress, arrived in Halifax, Nova Scotia, on March 24 to find the old seaport town, so recently ravaged by the fire, teeming with soldiers in a different uniform. The troops remained aboard their cars that night, but stretched their legs on March 25 as they marched through the town to the waterfront and early in the afternoon boarded the British steamship „Corsican".

No time was lost on board. Cables were drawn in less than an hour after the last man had reached his berth and the liner pulled out into the harbor to join six other transports, five carrying Canadian soldiers. The U. S. S. Montana was the guardian across and remained at the head of the formation until the British destroyers met the convoy two days out from land.

Perhaps u-boats were too active in the Irish Sea, or perhaps the Britons intended purposely to give the First Battalion a bit of sight-seeing. At any rate Glasgow, Scotland,

was the port of debarkation, and after turning up the River Clyde, Capt. James marched the First Battalion ashore about 4 p. m. on April 3.

Early in the evening the battalion boarded trains on the Caledonian Railroad and started southward toward England, arriving at Camp Woodsley in the town of Romsey on the next afternoon. Here the opportunity came for resting from the effects of the sea voyage. Four days were spent at Romsey, during which time several of the officers found excuses sufficiently legitimate for hurried visits to London.

A twelve-mile hike on the morning of April 8 brought the Thirty eighth men to Southampton for the trip across the Channel. There is small likelihood that any man will forget that particular hitch in the journey to France. An old cattle boat, the „Austrilind", was assigned and there was no camouflage in trying to disguise the fact that it was no passenger ship. Room there was none, hardly enough for one half the men to lie down. Quarters there were none, so from 6 o'clock on the evening of April 8 until 8,30 the following morning when the battalion set foot on France at Harve, it was a case of stand, balance, topple over, slide, slip, skid, bump and generally gyrate all over the ship in an endeavor to stave off the sickness that accompanies the Channel crossing.

The stay at Harve was brief. British soldiers doubtless are accustomed to this quaint old French port, but men of the First Battalion found its streets particularly hard on tired, blistered sore feet, especially along the several-mile hike to a so-called rest camp. On the following morning, April 9, another hike of about six miles brought the troops to Railroad Point No. 6 where those never-to-be-forgotten French troop trains were being switched around into readiness.

Box cars are all right in their place. And the tiny, dirty variety in the country of Napoleon certainly have their place. But how many men of the A. E. F. can vote any trip in them a hilarious success? Magazine writers for months had been poking fun at those signs — „40 hommes, 8 chevaux" — and

here in the railroad yards the Thirty-eighth was face to face with the reality. It was a horrible introduction. Into them they piled, and soldiers who hadn't before become proficient in cussing came by it naturally right then and there. Perhaps 40 Frenchmen could crowd into a box, about one-third the size of an American standard freight car, but how were two score of well-fed healthy Americans to do it?

Most of the cars had a few benches, some did not. But even with benches it was a survival of the fittest. A series of arguments and loud talk by the non-coms found them seats for themselves and room for their packs and rifles. Even a few husky privates squeezed in. But that always left some more whose allotment of space was just what two large-sized field shoes could cover. They stood. And after several hours perhaps a couple of cigarettes induced a buddy who had been rolling Bull Durham to exchange places. Anyway, some one had to stand always. Soldiers of this regiment learned a thing or two, however, on that initial trip in French trains. They learned to avoid the box cars and what later trips were made after the flat cars had been added to carry regimental wagons invariably found the space under wagons, carts and kitchens taken by soldiers.

It was not until late in the afternoon of April 11 that the First Battalion and machine gun company finished this trip. They had come three-quarters across France when the train pulled up to the deserted station of Latrecy and they hopped off. Even those who were so stiff that they fell off, did so gladly. A march of a few miles, the latter part of it after dark, brought the men to their homes that were to be for some weeks, in the village of Arc-en-Barrois.

No wonder it was hard to appreciate France at first sight. Tired, hungry, terribly dirty from the long train trip, here were more than a thousand soldiers after dark in a strange town of a strange country. Several barrack buildings were available and those who found them turned in for sleep. Many others just flopped down their blankets

outside and made up a bed. It was the first night for troops in the brand new area assigned to the Third Division.

The Second Battalion and headquarters aboard the „Mount Vernon" had a large vessel to bring them across, including the accompanying luxuries, and beginning with the first night out movies were arranged. Somehow or other a rather cruel joke was perpetrated by the operator. He flashed on the screen a picture showing a u-boat sinking a liner, hardly an appropriate train of thought to put this battalion in at the start of their trip over the submarine-infested Atlantic.

Land was sighted early in the morning of April 7 and by noon lighters had put the troops ashore at Brest and Colonel Castner was marching them to Pontenacian barracks, three miles outside the city. Incidentally, the Second Battalion had plenty to think about that first day on French soil. It was learned that the good ship „Port Campell", a British vessel, had been torpedoed while steaming only a few miles from the „Mount Vernon" early the same morning.

The Second Battalion had four days at Pontenacian, but only the troops on loading and unloading details had the opportunity to visit the quaint old Brittany city of Brest. The companies boarded French troop trains the evening of April 11 and then followed a three day experience with the „40 hommes, 8 chevaux" box cars until Latrecy was reached. Colonel Castner with regimental headquarters and headquarters company went immediately to Arc-en-Barrois to be billeted with the First Battalion. Cos. E and F went to the village of Couprey and Cos. G and H and the supply company found quarters in Cour-le-Veque.

Travel on the „President Lincoln", carrying the Third Battalion, was much slower. This sturdy old vessel was primarily a cargo ship and probably this battalion had poorer accomodations on board than the other two. Bunks for the enlisted men were crowded in tiers throughout the four holds leaving no space for mess rooms. The result

was that by the second day out each man had the choice of learning to manipulate his mess kit while swaying on a hatch with the motion of the ship or else not eat at all. Officers quarters were hardly adequate.

The Third Battalion, under Captain H. J. Keeley saw a submarine—almost. On the morning of the seventh day out the guiding ship of the convoy, the „George Washington", le loose with six blasts of its huge siren and this signal of alarm was immediately taken up by all seven vessels in the convoy. Between the „President Lincoln" and the „George Washington" something dark and sinister seemed to be speeding along with just an edge showing above the surface. The Third Battalion transport opened up with one of its aft guns, and those who hadn't hustled into their regularly appointed places during the preceeding abandon ship drills found them that morning in a surprisingly short time. A tense few minutes followed, but no boats were lowered and the 4600 troops aboard breathed easier. Then the all-clear signal sent each man to his compartment.

It was a whale or blackfish, so the skipper announced later in the day, and he was as pleased as a child at Christmas with the results of the unexpected boat drill. Our soldiers took on an added interest in and appreciation of the „flat-feet' abcard this navy transport, for their method of working and the ease with which each sailor found his station and handled his own job was indeed inspiring.

This voyage of the „President Lincoln" was the longest of any of those which brought the Thirty-eighth across. On the morning of April 13, after an even two weeks at sea, cliffs outside of Brest were sighted and several hours later the anchor was lowered in the harbor. But landing was not to be made that day. While officers in a funny looking „monkey cap" and those Sam Browne belts paid visits of official business to the vessel, those on board could only line the rails and take in from a distance the sights of queer harbor craft, queer docks, and queer white

stone houses. On the Sunday morning of April 14 lighters manned by Britishers with real cockney speech carried the Third Battalion ashore and no time was lost in marching out to Pontenacian barracks. Only one day was spent there, however, and at darkness on the evening of April 15 the battalion entrained in French box cars for the long trip across France, broken only by the midnightly stops at wayside stations where women of the French Red Gross served coffee.

Latrecy was reached the morning of April 18, Cos. I and K and battalion headquarters separating from the others and marching to Creancy and Cos. L and M. going to Montribourg. The Thirty-eighth was now in billets in its own area and ready for the last phases of training.

The officers and non-coms who had preceded the regiment by a month had returned from the schools. Some had even had several days of observation at the trenches with British or French regiments. We found Major Adams now a Lieutenant Colonel and with exciting stories to tell of his front line experiences. Lieut. Col Dorey now wore the silver eagles as his promotion had come a week before. Several days later Lieut.-Col. Lewis appeared with silver leaves in place of the gold which he wore when he left the States.

CHAPTER VI.

LEARNING TO PARLEZ-VOUS.

Big tasks lay ahead of the Thirty-eighth as Colonel Castner awoke on the morning of April 19, 1918 to find his complete regiment in France. Training must not wait. The daily communiques from the front reminded Americans that Germans were driving the British in endeavors to split the English and French fronts in twain. It didn't need the brains of a military critic to know that unless Yanks could be used very, very soon they wouldn't be needed at all. So here was an infinite amount of the stiffest kind of training necessary. Looking over the area of the Thirty-eighth one could see another urgent problem. French people, we knew, were wonderful cooks, thrifty economical homesteaders, but why, oh why, were these villages in the southern part of the Departement of Haute Marne so dirty?

An American's idea of a village is neat wooden houses, wide streets, grassy lawns, well kept trees and cleanliness. But here the billets were in quaint, ancient old stone and plaster houses or rickety barns where Corporal So-and-So must lead his squad up a ladder to a musty hay mow. Gutters fairly ran deep with the overflow from steaming piles of manure which marked the entrance to each home. Cows, chickens, pigs and horses roamed about the village squares and into the public wash houses at will.

Therefore some few days were spent in a general policing up while the natives clackety-clacked through the streets in their wooden shoes, the shape of small towboats, watching our every move. „Les Americains“ were certainly the saviors of France, but what a fussy people! Into storerooms, into the kitchen sheds, into the billets and quarters the civilians poked their heads in amazement. One by one our articles of clothing and equipment had to be displayed and explained and long one-sided conversations were bound to follow.

In a surprising short time, however, the buck private from Alleghany County, Virginia. started his French vocabulary with the single word, „oui”. In his letters home he wrote it „we, we“. Never did another word in any language go so far or serve so well. If a French veteran of the 1870 battles wanted to know how many Americans had arrived in France; if a wrinkled old woman stopped to admire the manner cooks were getting noon-day chow ready; if tiny tots climbed up on the knees of a sergeant and began to jabber questions; there was always one answer. It was „oui, oui“ no matter what was asked.

After a soldier had spent a few more nights in a civilian's kitchen where everything from his best girl's photo to his pair of crap dice had to be shown to grandpa and the next four generations there present, another word was added. It was „bon”. The third acquirement is a toss-up. „Tout de suite” appeared about the time of „vin blanc”.

Now real progress was being made. Some few members of the unloading details at the ports had had thirsts satisfied, but it remained for the cafes and buvettes in the billeting area to appease the great majority. Our last impression of American beer dated way back to the ante-bellum period when the uniform was no barrier to getting close up to the mohogany. And now right here in France the good old days had returned. For a man could, between reasonable hours, walk in the front entrance, find a vacant chair at

a table and order from a pretty little daughter of a crippled and discharged soldier beer that wasn't really so bad, or white or red wines. Perhaps, if the barkeep dared, as he did now and then, to wink at a G. H. Q. regulation, a bottle of champage could be obtained for eight or ten francs. It has been said in this regiment that on rare occasions said barkeep has dispensed what is known as „koniack, or some name like that".

Innumerable funny incidents happened in Arc-en-Barrois, Couprey, Cour-le-Veque, Montribourg and Creancy. And two probably typical of the struggles with learning the French language must be told.

A raw, lanky private in the Third Battalion set himself one Sunday morning to buy a glass of milk from the woman next door to his billet. He tried to pronounce the word with several varieties of accent and dialect, even to saying „milch". But there was no response. Then he imitated the motions of milking a cow, as he had done for years on his father's farm. And still no sign of understanding from the puzzled madame. He'd try once more. Rushing into his billet and returning with his mess cup, this is what his friends saw him doing:— standing before the woman, pointing to the cup, and bellowing out „moo, moo, moo" at the top of his lungs. He did get the milk, sure enough. She had at last „compreed", so he explained to his buddies.

The other tale is told on a First Battalion company commander who has since been killed in action. Jokingly, another captain had inquired if his company had its full number of „meme choses". Now, the truth was, he had no idea of what this article of issue was, but he wasn't to be caught unfamiliar with tables of organization and equipment. He admitted it hadn't but was thankful when his friend told him that So-and-So's company had one or two extra. He went and asked about getting a couple of „meme choses", but the third captain, already acquainted with the progress of the joke, confessed he had none extra but that

he did have some „quelque choses". But they wouldn't do at all in case an inspector-general appeared. Some days later the two captains met a pair of French officers, each wearing the green and red shoulder cord of the Croix de Guerre fourragere. Here was a rare opportunity. So the joker demanded in his best French „Ah, you two have the meme chose". They agreed with smiles and the company commander was now certain his supply sergeant had been careless with issued property. Certainly, if the French officers had their „meme choses" we American beginners must by necessity have them.

The joke was continued for several days and even a new trick of speech used. „Cafe noir" was reputed to be a restaurant in the next town instead of a drink.

It was right here in these tiny French towns that the overseas civilian workers for the Y. M. C. A. came to make life easier and happier for soldiers of the Thirty-eighth. And they succeeded. In each town a secretary was established and although often without equipment or supplies the „Y" billet immediately became a rendezvous after drill hours. Writing paper and facilities were supplied, money mailed or cabled home, checks cashed, errands to nearby towns done graciously, and when available, cigarettes, tobacco, and chocolate sold. The Thirty-eighth did not come to know at first hand the work of the Salvation Army until late in August, but it began an intimate and lasting acquaintanceship with the Red Triangle people in May. Among the pioneer workers of the „Y" overseas who joined the regiment were Dr. J. H. Johnson, a preacher from East Orange, N. J.; Rev. G. W. Rideout, another minister; J. R. Simpson, a bank teller from Pittsburgh, Pa.; D. H. Howes, an insurance specialist from Wilmington, N. C.; Miss Alice Lindley and Miss Dorothy Dennis.

CHAPTER VII.

THE FINAL STAGES IN TRAINING.

It wasn't all play, however. In a few days billets had been made inhabitable, streets and village squares thoroughly cleaned up, and then work began in earnest. After all the months spent in drilling in Syracuse and Camp Greene it would seem that only the polishing-off work now remained. But there was more, much more.

Only a few men in each company had ever seen a Chauchat automatic rifle, fewer had seen and handled live grenades, and with the recruits picked up at Camp Merritt more time at the rifle range was certainly needed. In the specialist branches of the regiment practically no new warfare had been learned. The signal platoon had to learn its instruments, how to lay wires and maintain forms of liaison. The 37mm. platoon must see its guns for the first time, and the Stokes Mortar section had as yet not learned the manner of handling this weapon. The machine gun company had had some little training with Hotchkiss guns in the States, but now it must train every man in the tricks of this rapid firer, and with the arrival of the carts and mules a platoon must be taught the rudiments of machine gun transportation.

Only the few officers who had come over in advance to attend schools were available for instructors, and on April 27 each company sent one or two officers and a sergeant to

BRIGADIER GENERAL U. G. McALEXANDER
Formerly Colonel of Thirty-eighth Infantry.

the Second Corps Schools at Chatillon-sur-Seine. The detail was here divided and then followed a month's intensive instruction in automatic weapons, grenades, sniping, bayonet work, the specialties, and in minor tactics. Captain Parkinson, formerly commanding Co. K, was on temporary detail at this school first as executive officer and later as instructor.

Other changes in officers were being made during this period. Colonel Castner, to whom the Thirty-eighth owes so much of its spirit and morale, got his B. G. early in May and it was with sincere regret that the regiment saw him leave. Lieut.-Col. Adams succeeded to command temporarily but on May 14 the motor cycle couriers brought the news to the outlying towns that a new commanding officer had reported for duty. Colonel Ulysses Grant McAlexander was his name. More, much more, was to be learned about this fighting colonel in the following weeks on the Marne. He was already known to the A. E. F., having arrived in France nearly a year before and having been identified with the work of the 1st. Division in some of its toughest scrapping.

Colonel Dorey, popular with every officer and man in the regiment as the highest type of soldier, officer and gentleman, left early in the month to command the 4th Infantry. The Marine Corps sent two field officers to the Thirty-eighth. Major Robert E. Adams, who commanded the Third Battalion until the first week in July, and Major L. W. T. Waller, Jr., who was with the First Battalion for a short stay, brought with them experiences recently acquired on the western front.

On May 4 this regiment was formally brought under French Army instruction. Three officers, Lieutenants Chavance, Pontalis and Wadelet, reported for duty and brought with them an entire French infantry platoon which remained three weeks, going about through the regimental area and exhibiting the new methods of wave attacks, infiltration, and advancing on machine gun nests. The three officers were

with the regiment until after the July fighting. By this time there was no further need of French advisers and only Lieutenant Chavance remained with regimental headquarters.

The fate of this genial little Parisian, who wore the Croix de Guerre with two additional stars and two wound stripes and who had been in the war from the start in 1914, was particularly pitiful. When the 3rd Division was relieved for the last time Oct. 31, Lieutenant Chavance obtained a leave but in Paris fell a victim to the ravages of Spanish influenza and died the day following the signing of the armistice. He was a friend of all, a great admirer and booster of the Thirty-eighth, and had furnished much helpful advice.

May 1918, was an extremely busy month. On the 6th the Stokes mortar platoon fired its pieces for the first time. The regimental calendar shows that on that day battalions were officially organized when the sergeants major reported for duty and opened up shop. On May 11 troops were paid for the first time in France. Many was the joke on the poor franc. The size of this currency was likened to a roll of wall paper, it would never fit any American-made pocket-book, and soldiers in general took an immediate dislike to it. On May 17 the newly ordained personnel department was organized in the Thirty-eighth, with Captain Delphin E. Thebaud the first personnel adjutant. First Sergeant R. M. Barr was taken away from Co. G. to be chief clerk with the rank of regimental sergeant major.

In the companies permanent squads and platoons were organized and by the middle of the month training had progressed beyond the instruction stages. Terrain exercises and combat problems were now taken up and on May 24 General Pershing watched an exercise for divisions and corps held in the division area and attended by commanding officers and adjutants of battalions and one officer and one non-commissioned officer from each company.

It had been established fairly definitely that the Third Division was to follow in the steps of the earlier pioneers in

France and have its training period broken by an actual tour of duty in the front lines of a quiet Alsace sector, and then sent back to the area for the final polish that would make it a real combat division. Tentative dates were set for June 5 and June 9 as the time the Thirty-eighth would leave, and on May 23 the regiment was visited by Major-General Dickman for a review followed by an inspection by Major-General H. W. Brewster and Colonel A. T. Overshine. It was nearly ready, they thought. But little did they imagine the Thirty-eighth would never do duty in trenches.

It is a matter of extreme pride that today this „Rock of the Marne regiment" looks back on its part in the war and recalls very vividly that never once was this a trench-fighting unit. The Thirty-eighth learned how to fight by fighting. Gradual experiences with modern warfare never came via trenches. It came by facing Germans in the mighty July Drive, facing them at the entrance to the path they thought would carry them without difficulty to Montmirail, Meaux and Paris. It came by blocking the best divisions the German Crown Prince had.

Hardly had the officers and sergeants returned from the schools at Chatillon when the order came from the French High Command to cut short the training, pack up, and prepare to move. This was on Tuesday, May 28. No further orders came that day, but the morning brought reports of the new onslaught of Germans across the Aisne and a few hours later we learned the Fifth British Army had been punctured and that confident Huns were veritably racing southward toward the Marne. Orders to leave on the 29th were received but later cancelled.

Company baggage was ordered packed and stored and an officer and detail remained on guard in each town of the regimental area. Enlisted mens' barrack bags and their owners parted company, forever, perhaps. As these lines are written (January, 1919) they are still hundreds of kilometres apart. Officers' bedding rolls were authorized to go with

regimental property and many a „dog-robber" sweated blood trying to reduce a roll to the 24-inch diameter limitation. Many of these rolls subsequently lay unopened until the last week of July because the Boche saw fit to keep the regiment from growing stale with inactivity.

A bit of advice that proved rather expensive was followed by many of the officers. They were told by somebody — he has never been identified — that customs of the service demanded that the best uniform be worn to the front. Yes, indeed, it was quite the thing to do. And as the result many a sixty-dollar suit of serge wallowed around in mud during June and July and could not be replaced until visits to Paris were allowed in early August.

It was Memorial Day, Thursday, May 30, that the departure began. In the morning Brigadier-General Crawford addressed the First Battalion and headquarters company and in the late afternoon all companies assembled at Latrecy, the entraining point. The regiment was complete. Wagon trains were organized for the first time and the carts carrying machine and 37mm. guns were formed.

CHAPTER VIII.

RUSHED TO THE MARNE.

It was a night of delays. While frantic R. T. O.'s tried to muster troop trains in the Latrecy railroad yards, men of the Thirty-eighth shivered and shook in bivouacs during an unusually cold night. Finally, just before midnight, a train was made ready and Co. K was ordered out, the first unit of the regiment to start toward the front. On this train was also one company and the headquarters of the 9th Machine Gun Battalion, then commanded by Major D. H. Scott.

As daylight came on May 31 this first train was stopped and shunted about at nearly every station. Strange and ominous were the reports that came from French officers en route. It was the mightiest day of the German offensive from the Aisne against the Fifth British Army. We knew that and appreciated the urgent need of Americans on the Marne. But we didn't realize that the Boche had reached that river and were crossing until these excited Frenchmen thrust maps under our eyes and pointed to positions.

„The Germans have crossed at Chateau Thierry in small numbers but are still coming", they cried. „They have crossed at Dormans and at Fossoy too". The outlook for the rest of the day seemed to assure a real fight. Anything might happen before nightfall Major Scott ordered Co. K to be ready to detrain in an advance guard formation, and,

supported by his machine gunners, to advance toward the Marne for a certain meeting with the enemy before many kilometres had been marched.

As this train passed the villages of Sezanne and Esternay and neared Montmirail the report of the crossing of the Marne was confirmed. Every road and highway was packed with fleeing civilians. Railway yards were crowded and east bound box cars were filled with refugees from the Marne country, men with faces drawn, women and children crying. At intervals French army camions could be seen on the roads bound northward but their progress was slow. Carts, wagons, old time phaetons and two wheeled chaises—every possible kind of horse drawn vehicle—were heaped high with personal possessions while the men and women clubbed the horses to more speed. On top of even huge loads of clothing and bundles often rode a crippled grandmother holding a few-months old baby. Many of these wagons of refugees were without horses. Men and women themselves were strapped in rude harness trying to pull the load. It was a pitiful sight, and one who hadn't as yet formed his hatred of the Boche came by it that day.

Montmirail was reached and here new orders were received. The 7th Machine Gun Battalion, motorized and with plenty of gasoline, had made the run from the billeting area and was now at Chateau Thierry driving back the Huns who had crossed and successfully holding the bridge-head all the while under artillery fire. French cavalry was closing in and halting the German attack. Co. K the first infantry of the Third Division to reach Montmirail, was therefore ordered to stay on duty at the railroad yards and unload the division.

That afternoon of May 31 provided close-up pictures of modern war as no reel of movies can ever hope to imitate. Montmirail, hot, dusty and crowded, seemed to be a whirl pool of machinery of war. Column after column of French machine guns wound through the crooked streets and north-

ward. At intervals a train of camions with black troops from African colonies, until now held in reserve, passed in a thick cloud of yellow dust, the uniforms and even the men's faces caked with it as the result of many hours on the road. Cumbersome artillery strove to advance on almost impassable streets. Hardly a civilian was to be seen in this fairly large town. Stores, shops and homes gave evidence of the almost complete evacuation of the town now swarming with French, British and American troops. What a picture it was!

At the railroad station was something that gave everyone cause for seriousness. Packed on every bit of floor space in the station proper and in the baggage and freight sheds were the wounded, many horribly mutilated Britishers, French Colonials and Regulars, and a few Americans. A hoarse rasp from a horn and a French or American S. S. U. ambulance would pull up short in the little park outside the depot and empty its four litter patients. And in groups of three or more walking cases would come hobbling into the town from the north, many of these wounded having been on the road for hours trying to reach a dressing station.

Troops of the Thirty-eighth who saw these sights learned one never-to-be-forgotten lesson. Wounded men never whimper. Never a cry or a moan was to be heard from those soldiers. And the more a man was mutilated the better he appeared to stand his pains.

Those days, too, probably marked the introduction of the Thirty-eighth to the American Red Cross. French nurses and attendants seemed to be lacking, and doing the work were not more than a half dozen of the prettiest American girls ever created. Perhaps it was our love and respect for them, perhaps their beauty was real, yet in our eyes they were angels. But, oh, how tired they were! Several had not slept for four days but had moved rearward with the troops as the German rush continued.

Outside the railroad station a girl from Kansas City served hot coffee from a steaming canteen-kitchen on wheels to thirsty, hungry wounded and to refugees. In the town Mrs. Herbert G. Squires of New York City, known by all Frenchmen as a volunteer worker even before America's entry into the war, took over the management of a small private hospital. By nightfall May 31 even the corridors were crowded while two hundred more wounded had to remain in the nearby railroad sheds. And all this time her staff consisted of two American volunteer nurses, three young English girls, two French internes, and an American medical major who was serving other hospitals and could only visit Montmirail a couple hours each day.

Co. K pitched a shelter tent camp near the railroad and began its work of unloading the division and in the meantime the other units of the regiment were leaving Latrecy.

The Second Battalion left at 5.30 a. m. May 31 and the First Battalion five hours later. The headquarters, machine gun and supply companies started about noon but theirs was a trip of varied delays and experiences. En route to Montmirail reports reached the railroad officials that the lines had been captured and tracks torn up. These three companies were accordingly ordered off at Villenauxe by order of the French early in the morning of June 1. Thence they were marched several miles to Les Essarts le Vicompte where they embussed in French camions and at last reached Montmirail just before midnight.

These reports of enemy advance, however, were unfounded. For once at Montmirail it was found that all units of the regiment could proceed to Artonges or even to Conde-en-Brie by rail and that route was followed. From these towns the troops marched northward, the Second Battalion to St. Eugene and the rest of the regiment to Courboin. Regimental headquarters made the trip by automobile from Latrecy in Colonel McAlexander's car. The three remaining companies of the Third Battalion were the

last to arrive, having been held at Latrecy until midnight, June 1—2.

By the following day, when Co. K had completed its assignment at Montmirail and rejoined, the Thirty-eighth was now together. It was a much wiser body of men than three days before. It had seen the results of a major operation, it had seen divisions and corps moved into position, and it had sensed some of the horrors of war. It was now on the Marne, in immediate support, and what was more it was ready and eager to begin its part. There were many phases of the training schedule left undone. Everyone knew that. But the spirit was here, the morale was here, and healthy, red-blooded Americans were tugging at the leash.

CHAPTER IX.

ON THE FRONT LINE.

In a surprisingly short time it was evident that this sector along the Marne was not an ordinary front line. It had no resemblance to the districts in Alsace or north of Toul where the earlier American divisions in France had been sent to polish off the rough edges of their training. There were no trenches here, no sturdy, impregnable field fortifications of concrete with dugouts, communicating lanes, or barbed wire protection.

At the time the Thirty-eighth arrived in the Marne country the successive German offensive launched in the last days of May was only just breaking. Indeed, at Chateau Thierry the 7th Machine Gun Battalion was only beginning to organize the part of the town on the south bank of the river following its work of stopping the Hun advance over the bridge. A little west of this famous old town the 2nd Division was still fighting to shatter the attack on Hill 204 and the surrounding heights. French corps and divisions had just taken over the work from the British, and as the actual drive against the Marne gradually subsided during the early days of June there was naturally the confusion in orders, in plans and in troop movements that accompany a change of positions.

The ground south of the river must first be organized, for not since the initial German advance in 1914 had there

been fighting in this territory. When the Thirty-eighth reached this front it looked as if the war were hundreds of miles distant. There were no positions, no intrenchments, nothing except the green fields of cultivation with only an occasional shell hole here and there. French cavalry, so seldom used, had been rushed from the rear to stem the tide of German advance and was still doing duty alongside regiments of tired Colonial troops from the African colonies.

No time was to be lost in relieving these French organizations, for on the very night of the day the Second Battalion arrived in the area a courier brought the order to send two companies to Fossoy. It was just after midnight, June 1—2, when these instructions arrived, and Major Rowe dispatched Cos. E and F. from St. Eugene to take over from the 10th French Currassiers their line along the river. By the time Crezancy was reached, however, it was after 3 o'clock and breaking day and the two companies were taken into the Bois d'Aigremont for concealment until night.

It was therefore on the night of June 2 that the same two companies, with Captain C. F. Dineen commanding Co. E and Captain T. C. Reid leading Co F, took over the first front line position occupied by the Thirty-eighth Infantry. This was in the neighborhood of Fossoy. Co. E occupied that tiny town and Co. F centered around le Ru Chailly farm, two kilometres to the east. After dark the river's bank was guarded by petit posts of automatic riflemen and by patrols. Cos. G and H remained in support in St. Eugene for several days but later moved to a closer position on le Rocq plateau. Both the First and Third Battalions remained at Courboin with regimental headquarters, but on June 3 orders came from the French corps commander to take on still another slice of front line.

The First Battalion was therefore ordered into position at Blesmes, just west of the Fossoy sector. Cos. A and B, under Captains Ostrander and Lough respectively, went

into the river area, and Cos. C and D were assigned to the support in the vicinity of la Toiterie farm. Now the Thirty-eighth had front line work extending from the town of Chierry, which is two kilometres from Chateau Thierry, to beyond Fossoy, amounting to a frontage on the Marne River for nearly five kilometres.

Rather to the discouragement of the unit commanders and staffs of the 3rd Divison, the French higher authorities saw fit to divide brigades and even split regiments of their battalions. This was the period when the 7th Infantry was sent across the Marne west of Chateau Thierry to cooperate with the Marines. And in the Thirty-eighth this method of decentralization of command took place when, on the morning of June 4, the Third Battalion was ordered away from Courboin to Chezy-sur-Marne, a distance of about 20 kilometres from the remainder of the regiment and west of Chateau Thierry. Here, directly under French command, Cos. I, K and L were sent to relieve a squadron of the 6th Currassiers of the 4th French Cavalry Division on the front line while Co. M was retained in immediate support.

All three battalions were now in the line and during the early hours of the first day on the actual front an acquaintance was made with German artillery. It appeared that the Huns were determined not to halt their attack completely without those farewell bombardments.

This initial introduction to the whistle and whizz and bang of German 77's and 105's was not lacking in humorous aspects as the regiment today looks back on those happenings of early June. There were no dugouts, no prepared shelters and, what was more, there was no overpowering inclination to seek absolute protection. Troops in Fossoy, in Blesmes and in Chezy-sur-Marne actually withstood these bombardments as stoics. They didn't seek cellars; that would seem too much like cowardice. But they held fast to their billets, with teeth clenched. They were learning a lesson, however, and by another week under these conditions they learned that the best soldiers are the unwounded

soldiers and that it was no disgrace to seek protection even if it meant burying into a cellar or other shelter.

It fell to the lot of Co. A to have the first casualties, indeed, the first deaths in the regiment. During the early morning of June 4, hardly twelve hours after making the relief, a man was slightly wounded near Blesmes. And about 1 o'clock the same day a shell took the first lives of Thirty-eighth men, Sergeant Angel G. Pappas of Ipswich, Massachusetts, and Private Henry Tellone of Newark, New Jersey.

By another week a toll of several more had been taken and the first Thirty-eighth cemetery was established back at Courboin. Here in the little village graveyard, fenced in by a high stone wall, Chaplain John B. Peters established a resting place for men of this regiment and marked each mound with a neat wooden cross bearing the words, „Killed in Action". There is no doubt but that these initial losses in the regiment served as nothing else could to provide a revelation of war and its horrors. Blood of one's own friends, his buddy, perhaps, or his tent-mate, had been shed. It was saddening, but it was also a spur to fight, to tear, to kill those enemies of mankind who had brought on this world struggle. In the language of Colonel McAlexander, addressing a message to his command in memory of those who had fallen after the Marne fighting, „Salute them, then Forward".

The day of June 6 brought the regiment together again. After remaining in position at Chezy for one day only, the Third Battalion was ordered to Nogental, also west of Chateau Thierry, to relieve French Colonial infantry. Officers' reconnoitering patrols were sent out, but a change in orders came before the relief could be effected, and on the following morning it returned to Courboin as regimental reserve.

Colonel McAlexander set about immediately to strengthen his positions along the Marne for defence. Only at night were troops sent to occupy the river bank. By day shallow,

slit trenches behind the Paris-Metz railroad embankment. which parallels the river, must be constructed to protect the river platoons against artillery bombardment. Further back, at the foot of the rather steep hills just behind the towns of Fossoy and Blesmes, defensive positions for organization and for counter attack had to be built. And still further back, on the heights, there must be positions for the two supporting companies of each of the front line battalions.

There was much about concealment to be learned. In the two towns in the regimental sector only a few houses had been damaged by shellfire and several of the platoons could be billeted in the cellars It was a natural thing for a man to seek the freedom of the streets when off duty, but he soon learned that to walk boldly through a town with Boche planes overhead was like waving a red flag of challenge in the faces of German artillerymen. Shelling followed immediately. The soldier learned also that he couldn't smoke during the night's vigil on the Marne. Less than fifty yards of a smooth, swift river separated him from a Boche sniper. He must not patrol boldly along the bank in a bright moonlight, but, instead, crawl snakelike from bush to bush.

It was seldom that he saw a German. Perhaps at noon time he caught sight of one or two in the streets of Gland, across the river. And, following an early morning fog on the river when day seemed to break more quickly than usual, perhaps he saw a file of machine gunners returning to billets in the woods on the hilltop. The range was usually too great to try a shot and, indeed, for a period of two weeks there was a divisional order against using the Springfield unless the Boche were trying to cross to the south side of the Marne.

There were several changes of positions during the month of June. A battalion from the 30th Infantry took over the greater part of the area held by the Second Battalion, and the regimental sector became a one-battalion

front. Major Rowe's battalion moved back toward Courboin in support, and the Third Battalion went still further back to Viffort to become the brigade reserve. Even during June the French higher authority sensed the approach of another German attempt to advance. It was no secret that the enemy plans included a series of attacks in the hope of weakening the French and British before America could transport enough men to France to be any considerable factor. „Alerts" came frequent. For several nights in succession the support and reserve battalions were routed out before daylight for a „stand-to" or for a gas alarm.

In addition to the training in front line duty, men of the Thirty-eighth were learning something about another form of soldiering. That is „salvaging". If a discarded helmet or gas mask were picked up, it was obviously salvaged. But during those days along the Marne a hundred and one articles not to be found in any army manual came in the same category. If Private Jones caught sight of a thick, downy, feather comforter and added it to his two blankets for bedding, his explanation to his platoon leader was. „it was salvaged". If Private Brown found that some civilian had fled southward leaving a ripe, inviting truck garden behind, he lost no time in supplying his squad with radishes, lettuce and asparagus. And if Private Smith of the same squad found a shed full of charcoal and built a fire in the billet, knowing it was safe because charcoal fires do not smoke, and cooked all the vegetables for dinner, the whole thing was „salvaged". It was nothing more or less.

That Marne country was plentiful with hogs, chickens, and cattle, too. Many of the French civilians had driven them southward before the recent German attack only to have to discard them here. It was fortunate in many respects that of all places they turned their stock loose here near Blesmes and Fossoy. The companies could not have their kitchens on the front, but had to be satisfied with one meal only during each 24 hours, and that came about midnight. And the rations during these days were supplied

by the French, including the never-to-be-forgotten „hob-nailed hardtack" and „monkey meat".

But there are tricks to every trade and solutions to every problem. Many a fat hog was reported to the company commander as killed by shell fire and straightway turned over to the mess sergeant. Yet, strangely enough, there was invariably a hole in its head just about the size a bullet from an automatic service pistol could make. But cooks and K. P.'s asked no questions. Just back of Chateau Thierry some French Colonial troops had corraled a small herd of cattle and carried on the most obliging kind of business transactions. In exchange for two bags of Bull Durham a yearling calf could be obtained. And for four packages an American soldier could take back to his outfit a healthy cow that could be milked daily. On one occasion the intelligence section detail from one Third Battalion company had business in that vicinity and reported in with four cows and three calves.

War-time has its horrors, but men of the Thirty-eighth learned that there are a few accompanying pleasures also. Many soldiers in this organization have insisted they never ate better in all their service in Europe than during those weeks on the Marne. And that is undoubtedly true. In later days on the Vesle and along the Meuse, the next best thing to thinking of Broadway was recalling those fried hams, broiled steaks, creamed asparagus tips and other delicacies enjoyed in Fossoy, Blesmes and Courboin.

CHAPTER X.

LEARNING HOW TO FIGHT BY FIGHTING.

When this regiment returns to the States many and varied will be the tales told and experiences related. And not the least will be the proud assertion that the Thirty-eighth never was, in any sense, a trench warfare organization. To ask a man from this regiment about his early training on the front will draw from him an answer something like this:- „We never was sent to no trenches to learn fightin'. No, siree, no dugout warfare for this little old outfit. They didn't have to bury us in a quiet sector in Alsace before turning us loose on the Boche. In May General Foch says to General Pershing-he says-I need a classy regiment up on the Marne. So up we went."

In other words, the Thirty-eighth learned how to fight by fighting. It was hustled out of its billeting area prematurely by reason of the need for troops against the German drive in May. And there along the Marne it remained, learning warfare by real, not simulated, warfare.

During those weeks in June and July that prepared the Thirty-eighth for its now famous and historic defense of July 15 against that mighty German assault, our men were learning things that manuals, pamphlets or even quiet sectors cannot hope to teach. Every officer and soldier knew the „feel" of darkness with Boche snipers and machine guns across the narrow Marne. Eyes and ears were sharpened

as no other form of training can accomplish. All experienced the whistle of German shells and the explosion of them a few feet away. And most of all, by July 15, there were men in every company who had either killed Germans or who had fired at them at close range and had formed their impressions. These were the men who had left field equipment behind, exchanged their rifle for a pistol, trench knife or stout club, and had crossed the Marne to raid the town of Gland or to prowl through the thickets and woods on the outskirts for German prisoners.

The Thirty-eighth had not been on its first sector a week when the order came down from division headquarters to send a patrol across the Marne and capture prisoners for identification. No Man's Land in this area was a strip of water. It was not the typically level country that characterizes trench warfare districts of the front. There were no bushes, no trees, no depressions in the ground for shelter. And before a patrol could reach the other bank and match wits against the platoons of Germans who were defending their sector the same as we were on the south side, one must first cross the Marne.

That presented unusual difficulties. The first attempt to cross was made by Lieutenant Joseph R. Busk on the night of June 8 when he tried to swim the river. But the Marne's surface was deceiving. Underneath ran a cold and very swift current and swimming was next to impossible. On the following night an old row boat was obtained but before it had hardly left the bank it sprung many leaks, began to fill with water, and had to be paddled back to its mooring

Lieutenant Busk began to devise more elaborate plans and on the night of June 16 the first patrol of Thirty-eighth men crossed the river in front of Gland. But this endeavor did not prove highly successful. The patrol ran into a group of Germans near the town and in the shooting which ensued Lieutenant Busk was seriously wounded by a pistol

bullet in the leg and never again joined the Thirty-eighth in action, remaining in the hospital for several months.

Two patrols set out on the night of June 18 and both returned with prisoners. The larger was led by Lieutenant William H. Haynes and included several officers and about two score enlisted men. This excursion across the river and into Gland was engineered with the utmost precision, even to the details of manning the boats and rafts and protecting the advance elements with automatic rifle posts. Lieutenants Haynes and V. N. Taylor succeeded in reaching the town, overpowering sentries in front of a billet, and after engaging in a hot pistol battle at close range, sent back a prisoner and thereby fulfilled the mission designated by the division orders.

On the same night Lieutenant Robert F. Crandall went across at another point with one other officer and a squad of men and succeeded in returning a wounded prisoner, but not without casualties. Due probably to a misunderstanding of orders, the liaison between members of the party broke down, and Lieutenant R. W. Edwards and three enlisted men were afterward found missing. There is little doubt but that they were drowned in the Marne while trying to swim to the south bank. Lieutenant Crandall and his small party encountered a Boche patrol and drove it off. They then returned to the south bank. Finding that four members of the party were missing Lieutenant Crandall volunteered to return and search for them. Alone, he crossed again to the enemy side of the river and in his search found a wounded German near Gland whom he carried back a prisoner. It was such valiant acts of heroism as Lieutenant Crandall's that make the history of the Thirty-eighth inspiring.

The Third Battalion entered upon its tour of front line duty in the Gland subsector on the night of June 20. Co. K, under Captain R. G. Moss, took the Fossoy area, and Co. M, under Captain R. G. Woodside, went in to the westward at

Blesmes, remaining in these positions for ten nights before being relieved by the other two companies of this battalion.

Another ill-fated patrol was ordered across on the night of July 1. On the previous evening several large boats were hauled close to the water's edge but were evidently spotted by enemy observers during the day, for no sooner had Lieutenant E. A. Fisher and the first boatload stepped ashore on the German side of the Marne than a concentrated machine gun fire was directed against the men and the two other boats then in midstream. Lieutenant Fisher and seven enlisted men, mostly non-commissioned officers from the Third Battalion, were reported missing, all having been drowned trying to reach the south shore.

It was during the first days of July that the 3rd Division was again brought together. The 7th Infantry was relieved from its work with the Marines at Belleau Woods and returned south of the Marne. On the night of July 2 this regiment took over the Thirty-eighth's sector while the latter moved to the east and relieved a regiment of French regulars in the Charteves subsector along the Surmelin River valley. Lieut.-Col. Adams, who had been with the 7th Infantry since early in June, was returned to his favorite regiment and joined the Thirty-eighth again at St. Eugene.

CHAPTER XI.

AT THE GATEWAY TO PARIS.

Here in this new sector was the Thirty-eighth to write its name and deeds in the annals of military history. Here was to come its gigantic work, its greatest task. But little did any officer or man realize what was ahead as Major Rowe led his Second Battalion into its new front line on the night of July 3.

The Thirty-eighth had been prepared. Now it was regarded as a real experienced combat regiment. It had had front line duty on the Marne for exactly one month and it had learned modern warfare. The steps in training had been taken under actual warring conditions. And now, when the French corps and army commanders knew intuitively that another and greater German drive was coming, a drive described in the Berlin press as one so mighty that it would surely bring victory and peace, the Thirty-eighth was the regiment selected to fill an important point in the line of allied defenses.

This Surmelin River—so-called, probably, because the French have no word for creek—cuts a wide, rich plain, plentifully dotted from the Marne as far south as Montmirail with tiny farming towns and prosperous, cultivated fields. On both sides of the valley, which averages about one thousand metres in width, are fairly steep and wooded hills.

Of all the Marne country between Chateau Thierry and Chalons it is no wonder that this Surmelin valley should have tempted the German Crown Prince to make his mightiest effort — the July drive — in its direction. It must have looked so simple, so easy from the Hun observation posts on the hills to the north of the Marne, that it fairly invited an attack. The tiny river empties into the Marne at almost a right angle, affording an unimpaired view to the south for at least ten kilometres, and including the towns of Mezy and Moulins at its mouth and further south the villages of Crezancy, Paroy, Launay, Connigis, St. Eugene, Monthurel, Conde-en-Brie, and Montigny-les-Conde.

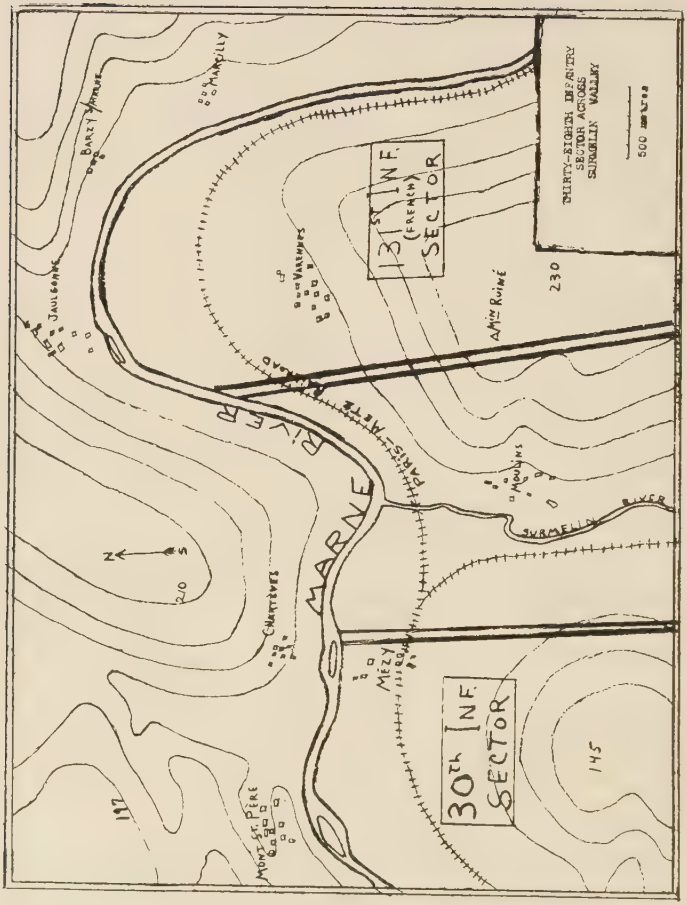
East and west of the Surmelin are the steep hills that form somewhat of a natural barrier on the south side of the Marne, yet through the Surmelin valley run good roads which give access toward Montmirail, Meaux and connecting up with the principal highways to the capitol city of France.

It is truly the Gateway to Paris.

The new sector of the Thirty-eighth began on the left at the edges of Mezy and continued eastward for approximately 1800 metres to a point between Moulins and Varennes. Here, a-straddle of the Surmelin, this regiment of United States Infantry, organized only thirteen months before, shattered the German avalanche on the morning of July 15.

On the left was the 30th U. S. Infantry, and on the right the 131st regiment of French Infantry. The elements of the American army in this Marne territory were still without their own artillery and under French corps and army command. Indeed, it was only a few days before the July drive that the American artillery joined the 3rd Division.

Occupying the front line were three companies of the Second Battalion. Captain J. W. Wooldridge, with Co. G., had the left, using one platoon on the river bank nightly and three in depth as support behind the Paris-Metz railroad embankment. Captain E. G. Herlihy's Co. H was in the



This map shows course of Marne River, the salient into the German lines caused by the bend in the river, and the relative sectors of the Thirty-eighth Infantry and the regiments on its flanks in the Second Battle of the Marne, July, 1918.

center with two platoons on the river and two in immediate support. Captain Dineen, with Co. E, took over the right of the line, with three platoons in front and one further back in support in the town of Moulins.

From the first days in this new sector the Thirty-eighth could see handwriting on the wall. This was no ordinary line of restistence that it held. French corps and army commanders issued warnings continually of the expected German drive. They even went so far as to announce that all probabilities pointed to the attack coming between July 5 and 9. And when this latter night came without incident, the intelligence reports indicated that it would arrive between the 10th and 16th.

Because of this uneasiness and attitude of expectation, the regiment never once settled down to a period of passive watchfulness on the Marne. It began immediately to prepare for a defense It began to constitute such a system of positions along its front that almost any kind of a German attack could be warded off.

Colonel McAlexander determined upon a plan of action that was the result of the keenest kind of judgment and foresight. The Marne took a sharp bend northward just to the east of the Thirty-eighth's sector, making a salient into the enemy's line, and the colonel shook his head apprehensively. The right flank must be protected in case the French withdraw, he decided. So instead of allowing the fourth company of the Second Battalion to remain undisturbed in reserve, he gave Captain Reid of Co. F the task of preparing defensive trenches on the forward slope of Hill 231. These fortifications, just back of the village of Varennes, would give complete command of the right flank, of that village, and of a good part of the river out in front of the French troops.

In front of the front line companies was a strip of cultivated grain between the river and the railroad from 200 to 500 metres in width and here too, defenses, slit trenches, and wire must be constructed.

For several days the First Battalion remained south of St. Eugene in reserve, but about July 7 it was split by an order from higher authority. Two companies, A and C, were assigned to the 30th Infantry in support, and Cos. B and D under Major Harry J. Keeley, who had just received his promotion, were set at work in and to the east of Paroy and Launay to augment the right flank protection. They built a series of slit fire-trenches on the heights to the east of the Surmelin.

The Third Battalion at this time was taken over by Major Lough, also recently promoted, and Major Adams returned to duty with the Marines. This was the regimental reserve unit and to it was assigned the task of constructing the Woods Line, an irregular series of entrenchments just north of Connigis, built solely for defense. Cos. L and M were assigned to the hilltop east of the Surmelin valley, Co. I had the territory in and around Connigis and Co. K was located on the opposite side of the valley in the Bois de la Jute and near the regimental P. C. at Courtelin farm. The machine gun company was disposed in depth from Moulins back as far as Connigis.

There was excitement in plenty those early July nights when German batteries were ranging shots on new objectives. There was work for every man because of the details which must go out just after twilight and dig until the first signs of morning to construct protecting trenches of defense on the eastern slopes to protect the right flank should the French troops withdraw, a contingency that happened.

But those beautiful July days more than offset the nights. It was warm, yet not too hot for comfort. Aviators seemed to play around in the blue sky and never a day passed without the spectacle of an exciting battle in the clouds. The new American 'planes, fitted with that peculiar sounding Liberty motor, were beginning to appear and served to attract more than usual attention from the doughboys. The American ration was now being issued

instead of the French and every last man appreciated the labors of the mess sergeants and cooks to make it tempting. Mail from the States was beginning to arrive regularly. The everpresent Y. M. C. A. secretaries were straining their endeavors to provide plenty of chocolate, sugar cookies, and other goodies. And to make life still more comfortable Major L. F. Howard, the surgeon, established shower baths in a billet at St. Eugene and on July 14 the first companies assigned to use them got their first warm bath since leaving the billeting area in May.

There was another cause for high spirits and excellent morale in the regiment. An authoritative announcement from headquarters provided that officers and enlisted men would be returned to the United States each week to be assigned duty as instructors at the training and mobilization camps. On July 8 Lieutenant S. C. Draper left the regiment as the first officer to receive this designation, and sixteen other officers were to follow him at weekly intervals. A few days later a non-commissioned officer from each company was named to return to America.

Many of those sergeants and corporals will never go back. They were to report to regimental headquarters at 8.30 o'clock in the morning of July 15, but Boche bullets and shells and gas prevented that assembly. It is one of the unhappy coincidents of war that nearly every man on that detail was wounded or killed during the early hours of the German drive on July 15.

CHAPTER XII.

THE SECOND BATTLE OF THE MARNE.

Here was the setting, then, for the July „peace drive". Here waited the Thirty-eighth Infantry, with two complete companies — A and C, comprising 500 men — absent, for whatever would come. The night of July 14 began the same as any other. Perhaps there was a little less action, a little less shelling, on the front, yet it was hardly noticable. Indeed, plans were made in the Second Battalion to send a patrol across the river after the moon had disappeared.

But that excursion never went out. At ten minutes after midnight, a flash, a roar, a jumble, then a thousand flashes, and roars, and jumbles, and the attack was on.

Those first few minutes have left such a strange impression! Every last man in the regiment had been under artillery fire before. But this was so different. What did it all mean? It was perhaps a full minute before one could realize it all. It was so infinitely greater than any previous bombardment. Never had so many flashes, so many explosions rocked the whole earth round about.

It was the long anticipated attack.

There was no break, no pause, no stop. Men in the companies along the hills which flanked the valley looked down toward the flat expanses of cultivated land near the Surmelin and saw that the flame-bursts and flashes seemed

to fade into one great screen of fire. Men in the river platoons could hear nothing save a continuous whine of the whistling shells as they passed high overhead. There was practically no shelling along the Marne for the first two hours.

The bombardment was of various calibres, 77's on the railroad line, 150's on Paroy, Launay, Connigis and St. Eugene, and further south the long range heavies ploughed into the earth even at Montmirail. From the reports of prisoners, it was later learned that 84 batteries were directed on the 3rd Division sector and particularly on the Surmelin valley.

By 12.15 o'clock every man in the regiment had adjusted his gas mask—many to wear it for the next six or seven hours—and had reached his previously constructed slit trench and splinter proof. Half hourly as the lieutenants and platoon sergeants removed their masks to sniff the air, the penetrating, sharp odor from powder explosions was first detected and later the mustard and phosgene fumes made certain that a large proportion of the shells were gas.

The bombardment went on without cessation. Huge tree trunks were snapped completely in twain; a roof here or a stone wall there came tumbling down; a cloud of smoke and flying pieces of dirt would drift away and leave behind it a gaping hole the width of a road. Rapid fire continued until about 2 o'clock and then a moderately heavy schedule began, the shells of which seemed to comb every bit of the roads, the woods, the fields and the towns. Nothing escaped for there were few duds in that bombardment on July 15.

For the first two hours the front line platoons along the river were comparatively immune and platoon leaders made frequent rounds of inspections to the outlying petit posts of automatic rifles. All knew the attack would inevitably follow this preliminary bombardment of destruction. Eyes and ears of those men on the Marne

bank were trained to detect any troop movement on the enemy shore opposite.

Probably the first Germans to start across were the half dozen members of a patrol who entered the outskirts of Mezy about 2.30 a. m. This group was spotted by Lieutenant D. C. Calkins, while making an inspection of his rifle groups, which comprised the front line platoon of Co. G. Mistaking them for Americans, he closed in on them but was stopped by a rifle bullet which broke his right wrist. He then crawled through the three-foot-high grain toward the river, came up in the midst of the patrol, and, shooting his pistol with his left hand, accounted for two of the enemy before the rifle butt of a third was crashed against his head, rendering him unconscious.

Lieutenant Calkins was reported as missing after the battle and carried on the rolls for four months as killed. Then he was located as a prisoner in the Rastadt camp. He rejoined the Thirty-eighth after the armistice was signed.

On the morning of July 15 he regained consciousness while being taken across the Marne by his captors. He was conducted before a regimental commander at Jaulgonne and questioned, but his exaggerated statements that there were „nine American divisions in the Surmelin valley and eight French divisions in reserve" brought him only scoffs and kicks from the Huns and he was evacuated to a hospital.

That isolated patrol of Germans, which crossed at 2.30, however, was not followed up for fully another hour. During this early period, Major Rowe, later decorated with the D. S. C., began sending back as famous, as proud, as confident a series of field messages as were ever scribbled in battle. His first message to Colonel McAlexander, dated 2.10 a. m. follows:-

"I was at the river bank when she started. Have been back about ½ hr. Much gas, some chlorine and a bit of tear gas. They are not shelling the river bank yet.
I believe that everyone is standing it well.
WE WILL HOLD THEM."

The shelling on the river bank began about 3 o'clock. Fifteen minutes of this destructive kind of fire preceded the rolling barrage, and the few liaison agents from the river platoons who reached their company P. C.'s on the railroad line reported that the enemy, under cover of smoke screens, was about to cross. Day was just breaking and through the mist, fog and smoke one could see the boats and rafts being filled. Pioneer troops on the left of the sector were hauling pontons into place for a bridge.

In front of all three of the forward companies these boats, loaded to the gunwales with enemy infantrymen and machine gunners, set out for the southern bank. That was about 3.30 o'clock. Yet, NOT ONE CROSSED THAT DAY IN THE CENTRE OF THE SECTOR, IN FRONT OF CO. H, OR ON THE RIGHT, IN FRONT OF CO. E. Men of the Thirty-eighth who had escaped the hours of shelling met every attempt with rifle and automatic weapon fire, and the reports from all prove conclusively that scores of these boats and rafts were shattered and sunk or else disabled and sent drifting harmlessly down the river. Hundreds of Huns jumped into the water and were drowned. Those who reached our side by swimming were either killed or captured.

Co. G, on the left of the regimental sector, had to face something more. Here the enemy machine gun fire was the most intense. Here, too, the concentration of attempts to gain the southern bank was greater than at any other point. But only after an hour of repeated failures did the Boche begin to land in numbers.

The river platoon, whose leader had been Lieutenant Calkins, was almost completely wiped out of existence. One or two men were later accounted for as wounded, but the other heros fought those hords of onrushing Germans to a finish—their own finish. The second platoon, in position just north of the railroad, counter-attacked toward the river and closed in on the advancing Boche. But it, too, was practically annihilated after savage bayonet and pistol

encounters with an enemy that was constantly gaining the superiority in numbers. Lieutenant M. M. Phillips of this platoon was killed early in the fighting.

Soldiers, wounded early in the morning, remained at their automatic rifles or in their rifle pits unflinchingly until killed. One man of Co G was later found lifeless with his rifle and pistol empty of ammunition and in front of him a heap of 12 dead Germans. Another private's body was found surrounded by five of the enemy, all killed by bayonet, but his own rifle clutched in his hands ready for more when the bullet from a machine gun stopped his work. Such scenes as these on the bank of the Marne bespoke of the effective fighting before these Thirty-eighth heros were conquered.

As the river platoons were pressed down and exterminated, all company commanders took forward their supporting platoons for counter attacks. Time and time again these counter blows drove the enemy to the Marne where bitter, bloody, hand-to-hand fighting stemmed the German advance temporarily. At the end of one of these manoeuvres Captain J. A. Minnis of the Marine Corps, who found himself on the morning of the drive attached to Co. H for observation, made a report to Captain Herlihy that was no exaggeration. He said:- „The river bank is CARPETED with German dead". Captain Herlihy was obliged to gather up his combat groups frequently to sweep toward the river and to dispatch counter attacks under lieutenants in the direction of Mezy.

On the right of the Thirty-eighth's line Co. E had its share of fighting both to the front and to the flank toward Varennes where the Marne takes a bend to the north allowing infilade fire from enemy groups who crossed in front of the French sector. Lieutenant H. J. Ross took command of Co. E early in the morning and in addition to protecting the river bank against boatloads of the enemy who were trying to cross he sent counter attacks toward the right flank to put a stop to the infilade fire.

During these hours of fighting Co. G was really the pivotal point of the attack. Squarely in front of this company, after the river platoon had been wiped out, the Germans erected a narrow ponton bridge over which the hords of machine gunners streamed. On the left, at about the junction of the 30th and Thirty-eighth Infantry sectors, a second ponton structure was built which gave additional opportunity for the Huns to direct flanking fire.

Counter attacks were made by Captain Wooldridge repeatedly and against overwhelming odds, but hundreds of the enemy were being killed and wounded or made prisoner. Of the 600 prisoners taken by the Thirty-eighth during this Second Battle of the Marne, more than 400 were returned by Co. G. After one rush a German captain was ordered to patrol on top of the railroad embankment and this bit of finesse caused a halt in the firing temporarily and gave Co. G the opportunity to organize its forces for another counter attack.

A part of the report of operations rendered after the battle by Captain Wooldridge and covering the work of Co. G follows:-

"The general bombardment lifted on my front at about 3.30 and a creeping barrage set in behind which the enemy machine gun detachments came at 40 yards, first in boats then on ponton bridges, one of which was placed at about my center and the other on my extreme left flank . . . . Enemy strength: On my front, one full regiment as nearly as can be estimated and by information from six captured officers. . . The regiment that came over on left flank bridge (same estimate and information) veered off and went thru 30th Infantry sector to woods in rear of 30th Infantry sector. The regiment which came over at my center fought thru my first platoon on river bank, exterminating same, except for three wounded men, one of whom was later killed by our own shell fire on railway bank. They gradually eliminated my second platoon on forward edge of railway bank, their place being taken in desperate hand-to-hand fighting by my third platoon, the fourth platoon being simultaneously deployed in place of the third. Any of the enemy who battled their way through the three

platoons were easy prey for the fourth and there was absolutely no infiltration on my sector.

From this engagement, which lasted several hours, I don't know how many, we sent in 383 prisoners which I personally counted and two large groups, from the south of spur track which I did not count . . . . . We took 52 machine guns and a great quantity of German impediments. A flank attack which I personally conducted sent in 185 prisoners and accounted for many killed, but the manoeuvre was costly as only three of us returned. Lieut. Murray was killed in this attack . . . . . .

Second attack was made at 10.30 a. m. from rear of 30th Infantry sector, a skirmish line coming from woods some 800 yards in rear of Mezy. Some 30 men of Co. "C", 30th Infantry, under Lt. Marsh, were left on 30th Infantry sector and were ordered to surrender. Lt. Marsh then turned his command over to me. I was further augmented by 12 men of Stokes Mortar battery under Lt. Frederick Winant, Jr., a splendid officer. With these, together with my kitchen personnel, company clerks, two runners and three buzzer operators, and what men I could take from my line, I took up a position behind rock piles on south edge of Mezy and repelled the enemy, some 250 strong . . . . . .

The air was thick with German airplanes who had no trouble in bringing down the few French planes that made their appearance. They sprayed us with machine gun fire."

Few organizations of the American army can point to such a morning's work in their experiences. Those counter-attacks with mere handfuls of men taken from other commands and picked up here and there are not every day happenings even in war.

Regarding the prisoners taken on the morning of July 15, the exact number will never be known definitely. In divisional records the Thirty-eighth is credited with „more than 600". But all prisoners are not always evacuated through a regimental headquarters. For instance, one private in Co. G who was later wounded, wrote to Captain Wooldridge from the hospital that he was ordered to turn over one large group of prisoners whom he was conducting to the rear to an organization of the 110th Infantry. This

regiment of the 28th Division came up in support of the 30th Infantry on the morning of July 15 and occupied the town of Crezancy.

Because of the courageous work being done by the front line platoons of Co. H, Captain Herlihy was able to use his reserve platoons to help cover the Co. G front where the Germans were pouring by means of the two ponton bridges. In his report of operations Captain Herlihy makes the following statements:-

> "Constant liaison by means of runners was maintained throughout the bombardment with platoons and with the units on our flanks. Heavy losses from shell fire were the only reports received until 3:00 a. m. At that time Sergeant Unkauf, fourth platoon, reported that the Germans had crossed the River Marne through Company "G", that two squads had been flanked out of position and probably captured.
>
> Throughout the night men at the posts on the river bank foiled attempts to make a landing from boats. At least 30 boats were sunk by our automatic rifle fire and hand grenades. Our front was never pierced at any time by the attempts. These boats were apparently loaded with 10 men, machine gunners, whose mission was infiltration.
>
> At 4:00 a. m. the Germans were seen coming across the river and through the wheat fields north of the railroad in Company "G" sector. An infilade fire was directed upon the advancing enemy by support platoons from the railroad with automatic rifles and rifle fire. Scores of the Germans jumped into the river and sank. Sergeant Unkauf with five men from the fourth platoon captured 60 Germans from this group."

The report submitted by Second Lieutenant J. B. Winokur, who by nightfall found himself in command of the right company, Co. E., after his captain and three senior lieutenants had been evacuated, tells much the same story of the terrific fighting along the river. Men of the Thirty-eighth knew the value of their Springfield rifles and used them. The leather slings were adjusted deliberately, ranges estimated and sights set, and there along the Paris-Metz railroad, the first line of resistence, the long hours and days spent on training camp rifle ranges were amply justified. The regimental front remained unbroken.

CHAPTER XIII.

FLANKS ARE HUNG IN THE AIR.

It was not the same, however, on the flanks of the Thirty-eighth's sector. While those three companies along the river were standing off the enemy regiments who sought to cross between Mezy and Moulins, new conditions and new dangers were threatening on the right and left.

The French artillery, which occupied positions in the wooded hills to the east of the Surmelin, is reported to have withdrawn at 1 a. m. The 131st regiment of French infantry, which joined the Thirty-eighth on the right and whose sector extended around the bend in the Marne to Courthiezy, is known to have retired at 4 o'clock in the morning, probably without firing a shot.

On the left, in Mezy and west of the village, swarms of Boche crossed on the two ponton bridges, fought back the elements of the 30th Infantry and by 5 o'clock were not only filtering through towards Crezancy and the heights west of the Surmelin but were actually gaining positions in numbers.

Thenceforth, the Thirty-eighth had three fronts, three sides to guard, watch and to counter-attack The enemy brought scores of light and heavy machine guns which immediately began pouring destructing infilade fire into the flanks and into the backs of the river companies. Captain Wooldridge, with his own Co. G and with the

help of the fragments of two platoons of the 30th Infantry under Lieutenants Marsh and Winant, was taking care of these Boche on the left flank. On the right, however, the way was clear for the enemy to advance up the slopes of Hill 231 after the French forces drew back.

But right here enters into consideration the uncanny foresight of Colonel McAlexander. He had anticipated such a turn in the battle and had prepared for it by having Co. F, under Captain Reid, occupying fire trenches to the east of Moulins and commanding the river and the right flank. From his positions Captain Reid could overlook the terrain immediately to the east of the Thirty-eighth's sector, and just as soon as darkness lifted his riflemen began directing a fire against the German boats which were crossing in front of Marcilly and Barzy-sur-Marne. The range was too great to stop all of these boats, but as the Germans began to land and to advance down the Moulins road in an endeavor to close in toward the Surmelin, Captain Reid commenced a series of counter-attacks which lasted the better part of the day. Lieutenant Ralph Eberlin led a brilliant bayonet charge and routed a large enemy force. He was wounded severely in this action, however, and Lieutenant Carl C. Cramer took up this work, meeting the Boche with steel and dispersing them

At regular intervals Captain Reid gathered up his combat groups to charge the enemy advances. On several occasions he carried his counter-attacks around the nose of Hill 231 to scatter or capture machine guns and light trench mortars. There is little question, in the minds of those who have studied the German drive in July intimately, that Co. F. held the right flank by fighting which showed the highest kind of valor. While Captain Wooldridge and Co. G. were eliminating the 6th Prussian Grenadier Guards on the left, Captain Reid's company was hurling back with successive counter blows the famous 5th Grenadier Guards on the right.

Further back Cos. B and D, under Major Keeley, were affording the closest kind of support. The other two companies of the First Battalion were still under the command of the 30th Infantry.

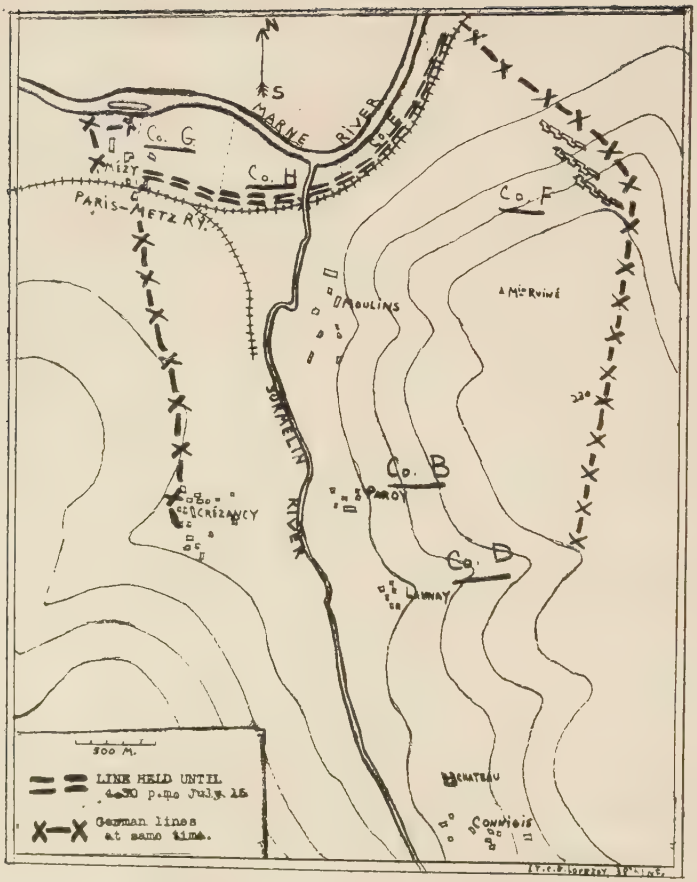
When the attack began details of two platoons each from Cos. B and D were more than a kilometre distant from the company P. C.'s, at Paroy and Launay, respectively, but these were summoned. The prearranged plans to cover a possible withdrawal of troops on the right were now put into effect. These plans included vigorous counter-attacks by the supporting companies and also indirect machine gun barrages by the guns of the regimental company and of the attached company of the 9th Machine Gun Battalion.

Captain W. F. Freehoff left elements of Co. B to occupy the positions in Paroy and with the remainder of his company climbed Hill 231 and advanced toward Moulin Ruiné to silence enemy machine guns which were sweeping the valley at intervals. These groups of Germans had crossed in front of the French sector, had worked around in rear of Co. F and were trying to command the hilltop which overlooks the Surmelin. Later Captain Shelby Ledford brought Co. D to the heights above Launay.

The situation on the right was hourly becoming more serious and more threatening. When the French withdrew, the enemy battalions found nothing whatever to prevent them from crossing the river and gaining the high positions south of the Marne They now began to work toward the Surmelin in an enveloping movement intended to cut off the companies of the Americans which were still holding the front.

As early as 9 o'clock in the morning Major Rowe recognized that the withdrawal of the French had left his right flank hung in the air, and he sent back this message to Colonel McAlexander:-

"Can I have any assurance that my right will be protected?"



Showing where Thirty-eighth Infantry held its first line of resistence along Paris-Metz railroad for 16½ hours in Second Battle of the Marne while the Germans gained flanking positions through adjoining regiments.

By early in the afternoon the situation was indeed precarious, but the following is typical of the confident field messages he sent regularly to the rear:-

"We have no intention of withdrawal unless we are completely outflanked. At present a Boche M. G. is troublesome on right flank. If French counter-attack in time we are all o. k. We must thicken the lines tonight and have ammunition and food and carrying parties from rear. There are many German row boats on river which should be destroyed before night. WE ARE WEARY BUT PROUD."

The First Battalion was overcoming big odds, however, in endeavors to give protection to the right. The terrain on the hilltop is rough, covered with woods and thick underbrush which gave concealment to enemy machine guns that could not be easily located. Captains Freehoff and Ledford dispatched patrols repeatedly to put out troublesome guns, but always in some new spot another burst of fire would follow. Major Keeley was trying to connect his companies up with Co. F on the forward end of the hill and at the same time retain liaison with the Third Battalion still farther to the rear. It was a job for a full battalion yet he had only the parts of two companies.

In the language of Colonel McAlexander:- „To the Third Battalion fell as hard a lot as can be imposed upon soldiers, that of having to remain constantly exposed under fire with no opportunity to return it."

This was the reserve battalion of the regiment and the opening of the attack found it stretched across the valley of the Surmelin in a line passing through Connigis. Here it remained until after daybreak, the men lying in shallow zig-zag trenches or in lightly constructed splinter proofs and all the time under the fire of high explosive and gas shells. Lieutenants and one hundred men from each company were away from their camps engaged in constructing trench defenses when the bombardment began, and these troops were not able to rejoin their organizations until about 4 a. m.

In these reserve positions, about three kilometres from the Marne, the artillery bombardment had been plotted carefully as is evidenced by the fact that no clump of trees was too small or plot of ground too tiny to escape being raked continuously by this destroying fire. There were naturally many casualties even before daylight. Litter bearers and first aid attendants of the Medical Department worked heroically to evacuate these wounded men to the dressing stations down in the valley on the main roads.

The Third Battalion was ordered to occupy the Woods Line about 6:00 a. m. and the companies were forced to move distances in some cases of more than a kilometre, all the time under a veritable hail of shells, to take up the positions. This Woods Line consisted of a system of shallow, open trenches north of Connigis and crossing the valley. It had been started three nights before as a purely defensive system and was still incomplete. Co. I, under Captain J. E. Bechtold, moved into that part directly in front of the chateau at Connigis; Co. K, under Captain Moss, put two platoons straddling the Surmelin River, and placed the remainder of the company on the hillside east of Connigis. Co. L, under Captain R. F. Smith, occupied the forward position overlooking the ravine east of Launay. Co M, under Captain Woodside, was on top of the hill behind Les Etangs farm and connecting up with Co. K.

Later in the day these positions were changed slightly when Co. I took over the left of the line and Co. K the trenches on the hillside, the other two companies remaining as they were.

By the middle of the morning the Third Battalion came under machine gun fire from the groups of enemy which had worked their way along the ridge. Patrols sent out from Cos. L. and M with the mission to connect up with Major Keeley's battalion encountered several of these small enemy forces and put them to rout, capturing machine guns and men.

Major Lough, commanding this Third Battalion, discovered that it was actually a front line unit when his patrols reported the French falling back. Janvier Farm, on the hilltop and to the rear of the battalion's right, was reported evacuated by the adjoining infantry, thus exposing the extreme right flank of the regimental sector. By this time all three battalions were front line troops, the line extending from Mezy along the Marne to Moulins and thence southerly down the heights east of the Surmelin to a point near Janvier Farm. But there was no intimation of a withtrawal. Indeed, as early as 7.30 a. m., Major Lough dispatched this message to headquarters:-

> "Reported enemy advancing down slope east of Surmelin. Bodies of enemy within sight of Woods Line. Machine gun officer reports French falling back. I WILL HOLD HERE UNTIL FURTHER ORDERS."

And so the action continued throughout the day. Facing the front and both flanks, men of the Thirty-eighth held their ground and gave back bullet for bullet. At 4.30 o'clock in the afternoon an order from higher authority ordered the regiment to retire to the Aqueduct Line. This line was not a prepared position in the sense of being equipped with trenches and barbed wire, but was merely the connection between the town of Crezancy on the left bank of the Surmelin and the villages of Paroy and Launay on the right bank. It was approximately one kilometre south of the Marne.

Captain Reid with Co. F covered the movement on the right. The left was taken care of by the units of the 30th Infantry and the 28th Division which had positions in and to the south of Crezancy.

But this time of 4.30 o'clock, July 15, veritably marks the end of the Second Battle of the Marne. The sustained action of the Thirty-eighth in holding its front and both flanks for 16½ hours had been sufficient to quell any further ambitions of the German tacticians to advance. Two of their best trained guard divisions of shock troops had been

flung against the Thirty-eighth and had been shattered. There was never another attempt made to press on southward. When the Thirty-eighth was withdrawn to organize its decimated companies, the Germans did not try to rush forces into the sector. The few squads which remained on the heights east of the Surmelin and in the town of Mezy gathered together and awaited orders from what must have been a surprised and chagrined German General Staff as it read the bulletins from the front.

Even during the hardest minutes and hours of fighting, the wonderful work of contributory units of the 3rd Division did not escape notice. Sincere appreciation is accorded to every man in the artillery and machine gun organizations.

The work of Major Anderson's battalion of the 10th Field Artillery was closely connected with that of the Thirty-eighth. His two batteries occupied advanced positions among the reserve companies of the infantry regiment. Throughout the early morning barrages were fired on the northern bank of the Marne and on the slopes higher up, effectually lessening the power of the German attacks against the front of the Thirty-eighth. Prisoners reported unanimously that several companies assembled in the area and awaiting the time for the assault suffered enormous casualties from American artillery which rendered them unable to take further part in the drive.

The 76th Field Artillerey had guns in position to the right rear of the Thirty-eighth and, like the 10th regiment, the crews worked their pieces throughout the German bombardment. The 18th Field Artillery was on the road bound for stations in the 3rd Division area when the German drive began, but continued through the shelling and put their six-inch guns in place.

Units of the Thirty-eighth and of the 9th Machine Gun Battalion fought side by side throughout the Summer and Fall of 1918. The friendship and high regard for the manipulators of those Hotchkiss guns reached the point of

intimacy in the ranks of the Thirty-eighth during the battling along the Marne. On July 15 Major Zeb Drollinger was in command of the battalion. A week later Major D. R. McMillan, formerly captain of Co. L of the Thirty-eighth, was assigned to it. Captain S. L. Carswell and Co. A of the machine gunners fought with the infantrymen during the Second Battle of the Marne. On the railroad line Lieutenant C. B. Blakeman kept two guns in action the greater part of the day, and on the right flank Lieutenant H A. Barker worked in close harmony with Captain Reid of the Thirty-eighth in protecting this exposed side with machine gun fire.

CHAPTER XIV.

„THE ROCK OF THE MARNE".

Captured German documents indicated that by 10.30 o'clock in the morning the objective was to be Montigny-les-Conde, a town eight kilometres south of the Marne. By that hour, in fact, the Thirty-eighth still held the line on the Paris-Metz railroad, 200 yards from the river. And until late in the afternoon it continued to hold it.

There lies the significance of the name — „The Rock of the Marne" — bestowed upon the Thirty-eighth Infantry by Major General Joseph T. Dickman, then commanding the 3rd Division and now in command of the Third Army, or Army of Occupation in Germany.

The exact origin of this now far-famed title is obscure. One authoritative report is that when Colonel McAlexander visited the division headquarters to describe the fighting of his regiment, Colonel R. H. C. Kelton, the Chief of Staff, put his arms around his shoulders and declared to General Dickman:- „This is the Rock of the Marne." Another version is that General Dickman himself gave the Thirty-eighth its name. At any rate, the appelation became fixed and in addition the 3rd Division itself became known henceforth to the whole A. E. F. as „The Marne Division".

Some of the pages of Colonel McAlexander's field message book are real classics of military orders and reports. They show at once the pride, the strength, the power, the

unalloyed valor of soldiers and the unquestioned assurance and confidence a commanding officer had in his regiment.

His first message to General Crawford, commanding the 6th Brigade, is dated 3.00 a. m. July 15. It follows:-

"No rifle fire thus far.
Heavy shelling from midnight till two o'clock.
All wire communications cut.
Shelling is abating and will secure reports by runners."

Later reports sent back to brigade and division headquarters by Colonel McAlexander form a chronological epitome of the action of brave men on the front. Some of them are here included:-

(6:00 a. m.) "Moderate shelling over whole area continues. Working parties returned in small groups. Battalions in assigned places.

Action proceeding satisfactorily.
Reports will be forwarded soon as received."

(7.45 a. m.) "Rowe reports French have given way on right. Unable to verify."

(8:00 a. m.) "Enemy across Marne, Mont St. Pere and possibly Jaulgonne."

(8:05 a. m.) "Send reserves soon as possible. My lines have held but those on both flanks reported to have partially withdrawn."

(8:20 a. m.) Captured few hundred Germans. Protect my flanks."

(8:30 a. m.) "My line still holding."

Facing the Thirty-eighth Infantry on the morning of July 15 were no less than 21 separate and distinct organizations of the German army, including TWO COMPLETE GUARD DIVISIONS. These were the 10th

and 38th Divisions. That the enemy plan of battle and attack was complete is evidenced by the composition of the units opposed to the Thirty-eighth. Identifications were made from all enemy units and prisoners taken not only from each of the six combat regiments of the two divisions but also from the organizations of additional troops, such as ponton bridge pioneers and attached artillery.

Prisoners were taken in abundance from the six regiments, namely, 5th and 6th Grenadier Guards, and 398th, 47th, 128th, and 175th Infantry regiments. Information showed that in front of Co. G the 6th Grenadiers were completely destroyed, and that before Co. F. the 5th Grenadiers were driven, defeated and all but destroyed.

The following unintentional compliment paid to the Thirty-eighth is found on a page in the notebook of Gefreiter Karl Recklinghausen, 2nd Co., 9th Grenadier Regiment, 10th German Division:-

> ". . . . . since July 18th we have been in first position in the neighborhood of Jaulgonne; opposite us are the Americans. Our retreat across the river (Marne) was awful; those Americans certainly did clean us up. . . . . They fight like tigers . . . . . If those in front of us are fair specimens of the average American troops, and there are as many as they say there are, then goodbye to us . . . . . "

Although official records are lacking to substantiate the report that still a third division succeeded in getting some men across the Marne during the attack on July 15, there is evidence to indicate this. In the town of Crezancy, a week after the battle, shoulder straps of the 377th Infantry regiment were found. This unit is of the 10th Landwehr Division and the discovery of these straps would seem to show undoubtedly that a third division was represented on the south bank. This third division, however, could not have pushed all its units across for it was this infantry group that the Thirty-eighth battled through on July 22 and 23 when it crossed the Marne in the attack. On those two days prisoners were taken from all three of its regiments, the 373rd, 377th and 378th.

Whereas the enemy losses in killed have been checked as authoritatively as possible, showing more than 1,200, the Thirty-eighth's toll is much smaller. Company commanders have made periodical investigations since last July, and on Jan. 1, 1919 submitted to regimental headquarters the figures that are substantially correct. The Thirty-eighth had killed in the Second Battle of the Marne, including the attack which followed on July 22, a total of 12 officers and 228 enlisted men. Enemy losses in wounded have been estimated at three thousand. In the Thirty-eighth 34 officers and 813 men were evacuated to the hospitals.

In commemoration of those brave men who gave their lives on the Marne in the battle that turned the course of the war, the Thirty-eighth has made noteworthly plans. A volunteer subscription list was presented to each survivor in the regiment and without the slightest solicitation, a sum exceeding 50 000 francs was collected for a monument.

It was the original intention to have an imposing monument erected there on the Marne battlefield, between the towns of Mezy and Moulins. Blue prints were drafted under the direction of Colonel Adams and a substantial deposit left with a French firm to hew, inscribe and erect a suitable monument.

As these chapters are being written, however, a change in plans is contemplated. Instead of a memorial on the Marne, regimental opinion is beginning to favor a monumental site in the United States. The city of Syracuse, N. Y., where the Thirty-eighth was organized and partly trained, has been selected tentatively as the logical place for this monument.

Already there has been issued to troops of the Thirty-eighth a bronze button, to be worn on the lapel by those veterans of the regiment who return to civilian life. This testimonial and mark of honor was designed by Captain John H. Freeman. The face of the badge shows a massive stone boulder, surrounding which is the inscription: „Rock of the Marne — 38th Inf.“

CHAPTER XV.

THIRTY-EIGHTH CROSSES THE MARNE.

Although the Second Battle of the Marne veritably ended on the afternoon of July 15, when the Thirty-eighth withdrew to the Aqueduct Line to reorganize its forces, there still remained the task of expelling from the south of the river those few squads of enemy machine gunners which had established positions. After dark on the 15th Colonel McAlexander ordered the Second Battalion out of the action and assigned it a reserve position south of St. Eugene. This was the unit, which under Major Rowe, had faced the brunt of the German drive and had obviously suffered the most. Platoons, sections and squads were in many instances without leaders, and a considerable amount of reorganization had to be effected before again using this battalion as a combat unit.

Therefore by daybreak of July 16 the Woods Line became the foremost position of the Thirty-eighth. Major Lough disposed his companies to form a continuous line from the Surmelin eastward to the crest of the hill near les Etangs farm, with Co. I on the left and Co. M the right of the line. Major Keeley was ordered to place his two companies of the First Battalion on the left of the valley, from le Chanet farm to the Surmelin. This general line was irregular and gave ample facilities for cross fire in case of another attack.

The French troops on the right of the Thirty-eighth were making plans for counter-attacking to regain the positions which they had left, and they were supported in this by a regiment of the 28th Division. That gave a continuous line of resistence across the Surmelin valley and over the hill to the right.

The principal mission of the Third Battalion was to hold this new line of resistence at all costs, because a withdrawal from here would mean a retirement back as far as the Army Line, a complete system of trenches and wire which passed through Conde-en-Brie. This line was parallel to the Marne and about seven kilometres from it.

There was never any intention, however, of using this last defence, at least in the plans of the Thirty-eighth. The regiment held the Woods Line without wavering. On July 16 some few attacks by the Germans were directed weakly against the right in front of Co. M, but they were easily repulsed. The main disturbances, however, were in the artillery bombardments on the Woods Line and the attacks from the air. It had been constructed for defense only, not for occupation. Its trenches were shallow and open and from the German observation posts which overlooked it from the heights north of the Marne, artillery fire was directed with a precision that resulted in hundreds of direct hits.

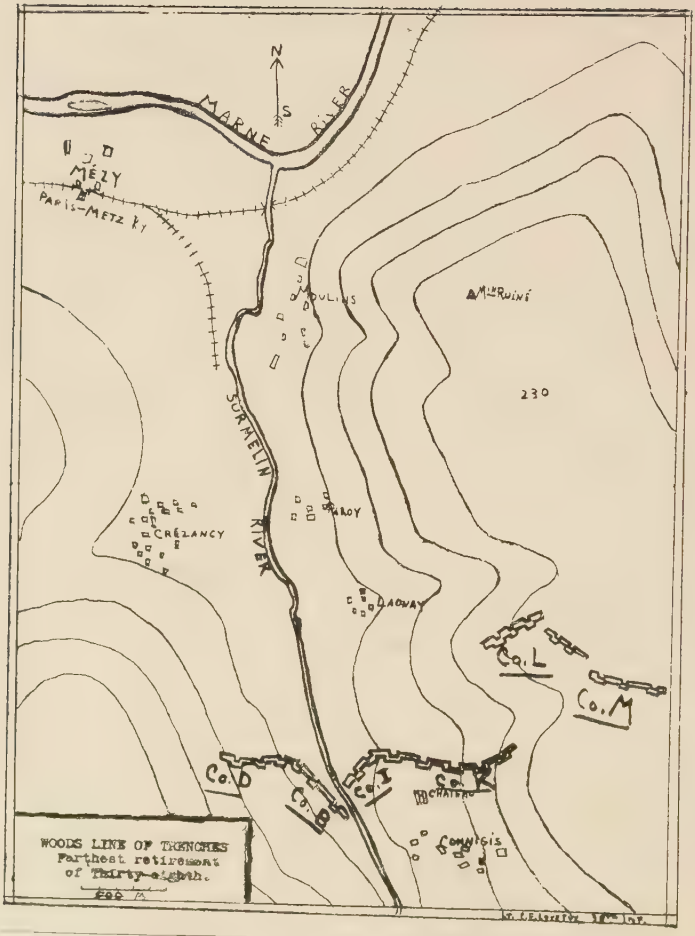
Superiority of the air was a toss-up in mid-July on the Marne. There were certainly as many Hun 'planes as those of the Allies. Morning and afternoon brought groups of the black cross machines over the Woods Line, and, swooping toward the ground, they poured streams of lead down the length of the shallow trenches For five days these troops of the Third and First Battalions endured as hard a phase of warfare as can be imagined. The days were extremely hot, the sun burned down on the hundreds of men packed closely along the firing bays and traverses and who were without shade or protection of any kind, and all the time these now fatigued soldiers were having only

sleepless nights and torturous days under continual bombardments and aerial attacks.

Beginning July 17 patrols from every company of the two battalions began to make excursions forward toward the Marne in order to discover the strength and positions of the enemy who remained. This patrolling was certainly not without its thrills. East of the Surmelin the heights are rough, densely wooded in parts, and cut frequently with deep ravines—ideal machine gun nests. Day by day these patrols were able to advance a few hundred metres farther before encountering the enemy. His line would then be located exactly and our own artillery fire directed upon it. On July 19 Captain Freehoff took Co. B into Paroy again and on the same afternoon officers' patrols which went forth from this company and from Cos. I and K reported that the Germans had withdrawn as far as Moulin Ruiné, near the forward nose of Hill 231, and were already retiring across the Marne.

On the following afternoon Cos K, L and M, in combat formation, combed the heights and woods east of the Surmelin to the river and found no enemy remaining. The old front line along the Marne was again reconnoitered and after dark the original positions were taken up. Co. I entered Mezy; Co. K took over the sector as far east as the Surmelin, formerly held by Cos. G and H; and Cos. L and M moved into Crezancy in a reserve position. On the right, Cos. B and D were deployed along the Marne and Cos. A and C, which had been returned to the regiment after their work with the 30th Infantry, moved up into support of Major Keeley's battalion.

Excepting those groups of automatic riflemen who occupied the positions on the bank of the Marne, soldiers of the Thirty-eighth got their first rest and sleep in seven long, fighting days during the night of July 20. It was actually a quiet sector. On the 21st details were set to work burying the dead on the battlefield between the railroad and the river. The remainder of the companies had their first



Showing Woods Line, to which Thirty-eighth was ordered by higher authority to retire on morning of July 16. This line was held until July 20 when the river positions were re-occupied

opportunity in a week of polishing their rifles and equipment, refilling their ammunition belts, and, most of all, eating real, substantial meals of cooked food.

The rumor was rife that the regiment was about to be relieved, for it had now been on the front for one month and 21 days. Carrying parties from the supply dumps reported that the back areas were filled with newly trained American troops who had been rushed from the billeting districts at the start of the German drive.

After dark on July 21, however, orders were received that thrilled and startled everyone. „The Thirty-eighth will cross the Marne tonight."

To many the order seemed to be plainly a mistake. Surely it would be countermanded. For one solid week the regiment had been continously in battle with casualties totalling more than one thousand officers and men. And there had been no replacements. What could it all mean? Here must be a regiment of the staunchest kind of soldiers whose worth and ability had been tested No other kind of a unit would be assigned to such a task.

Long afterward, however, men of the Thirty-eighth came to appreciate the necessity for that order. On July 18 Marshal Foch had begun his counterattack that was destined to win the war. For the first time in four years there were now enough combat troops and, what was more, enough reserves for the Allies to wrench the offensive from the Huns. Beginning on the 18th, French and Americans launched the first blow against the German salient which at that time was still menacing Paris. The nose of this great bulge in the enemy line was Chateau-Thierry. North of this city the 2nd and 26th American divisions leaped forward on July 18 and initiated that tremendous pressure on the Germans which did not end until the signing of the armistice on Nov. 11.

By the night of July 21 the advance from the western end of the salient had been considerable. The time was now opportune for a cross blow to be struck from the

Marne against the retreating Germans. The hour was at hand to hurl American troops from the south and thus pound a wedge into the mass of Huns who were falling back.

All day long detachments from the 6th Engineers brought bridge-building supplies up the Surmelin valley to the town of Mezy. Even in broad daylight heavy five-ton trucks rolled through occasional bombardments to dump planks, two-by-fours, rope, bolts, nails and other paraphernalia on the edge of the Marne just in front of Mezy. Here Co. F of the 6th Engineers, that glorious regiment which had first fought early in the Spring with the British and which later was to fight as Infantry in October in the attack on Claire Chenes in the Argonne, began and finished the work of spanning the Marne with a sturdy, substantial foot-bridge. Co. I of the Thirty-eighth gave protection and the engineers certainly needed it.

In broad daylight those carpenters and mechanics set in place the ponton boats and planks while under a continuous fire of enemy machine guns at short range. Direct fire from 77's was also poured down from the heights north of the river to those workers on the Marne. But nothing stopped them. Indeed, squads crossed the river in small skiffs, all the while under fire, to take possession of German pontons and bridge-building equipment which had been left on the north bank when the drive the week before failed. And to add insult to injury, these same engineers, when their bridge was completed, nailed a sign at one end of the passage, „Made in Germany".

The Third Battalion received the assignment of making the first advance over the Marne and its mission was to capture the town of Charteves and then scale the sheer slopes of Hill 210, which rises from the town in places at an angle of 45 degrees, and advance through the southern part of the Foret de Fere in the direction of le Charmel. Major Lough ordered his battalion assembled at Mezy by midnight.

This first move was certainly not the least of the task assigned. Beginning about 9:00 p. m. German artillery and particularly mortars of large calibre laid down a barrage on the town that was well nigh impassable. Co. I was already there and the platoons not protecting the engineers on the river sought the poor cellars and other shelters. Cos. K, L and M were obliged to march some distances from their positions and during a barrage fire that all but completely blocked the paths into the town. The entire battalion had assembled by midnight but casualties had already begun. Mezy was a mass of ruins, and what lone buildings remained soon caught on fire from the terrific shelling. Parts of the town became nothing more nor less than blazing volcanos, which sent flames high into the air and revealed to the watchful Huns across the river every movement of the troops. There were few shelters and at best they were inadequate and unprotecting. All of the companies suffered considerable losses before the crossing began.

This shelling had interfered seriously with the engineers in the work of bridging the Marne and it was almost 4 o'clock in the morning and just breaking day before the ponton structure was announced as complete. Then in single file, with Co I leading, the Third Battalion hurried across. Enemy artillery was trained in direct fire upon the bridge, but there were no hits, the 77's and 150's falling into the Marne on both sides and sending up geysers, one hundred feet in the air.

With the sole exception of the patrolling done in the previous weeks before the German drive in July, this crossing of the Marne marked the first time since May that Allied troops had been on the north bank of the historic river east of Chateau Thierry.

CHAPTER XVI.

FIGHTING ENEMY MACHINE GUNS IN THE WOODS.

Once across the river Major Lough formed his battalion for attack. Cos. I and K, in line of combat groups, led the way with Cos. L and M in close support. While Co. I circled Charteves from the right and advanced up the forward face of Hill 210, Co. K. had the mission of sweeping through the town, which it did, sighting no Germans but experiencing the fire of hidden snipers. This company then passed to the west end of Charteves, up the road to le Psoutie farm, and then mounted the sheer, almost cliff-like side of the commanding hill, meeting scattered machine gun fire on the way to the top. Cos. L and M followed generally in the path of Co. I.

On top of Hill 210 sharp bursts of enemy machine guns came out from numerous clumps of low trees and bushes, and several of these nests were immediately overwhelmed and captured. Major Lough now reformed his battalion in the shape of a lozenge or diamond, with Co. I the forward unit, Cos. K and L on the left and right wings respectively, and Co. M bringing up the rear. The advance now began.

The direction was generally northeast through the dense woods and undergrowth of the Foret de Fere. On the left of the Third Battalion was the 7th Infantry and on the right the First Battalion, which was to come up on line a little

later. Each of the three assaulting companies sent scouts out ahead and to the flanks while the main elements proceeded in lines of combat groups. In a very few minutes, however, enemy machine gun fire began to grow in volume and it was necessary to deploy and advance by waves of riflemen. Each company had machine guns from the regimental company.

The woods became more dense and difficulties of liaison seemed imminent. Patrols dispatched regularly from Co. K to locate the lines of the 7th Infantry never found that organization, but did encounter, scatter, kill or capture Boche machine gunners.

German tactics during this great counter-attack of the Allied armies had already been found to consist of three methods; heavy shelling, leaving machine gunners behind the retreating forces to fire until captured, and airplanes directing harassing machine gun fire on the attackers. And on this morning of July 22 none of these schemes were lacking.

By 9 o'clock, after a dozen or more machine gun nests had been uncovered and captured, a more determined resistence was met. Co. I had reached a point just south of le Francquet farm about three kilometres from the Marne and was closely supported by Co. L. Streams of machine gun lead poured in a crossfire that halted the advance and the companies took shelter. Co. M and several groups from Co. L endeavored to discover the exact enemy line and outflank it, but the dense woods afforded perfect concealment for the Hun gunners who had established a stand to delay our advance.

On the left of the battalion line Co. K was halted short by an enemy defensive trench system. This company was now the farthest north of any element of the battalion and for the next two hours became entirely separated. Boche machine guns opened fire from bushes and from concealed slit trenches. Indeed, from the direction of some of the bullets it was discovered that several of the

gun emplacements were high above in tree crotches. It was Indian warfare with modern weapons.

Here in this irregular line troops of the Third Battalion gave battle to German machine guns that could be seen only at rare intervals. The enemy entrenchments afforded every advantage in position, concealment and for infilade fire and casualties in the battalion became serious. Time and again rushes were made from the front and flanks against enemy nests only to be met by a curtain of lead that was absolutely impassable. Lieutenants Raleigh Younger of Co. L and R. T. Fry of Co. M were wounded in these rushes. Stalking was tried. Expert marksmen crawled forward into positions by stealth and several of the enemy guns were put out of action and captured by these tactics.

On the left after giving battle for nearly two hours to an enemy generally concealed and with no more cover against his fire than that afforded by a slightly sunken foot path, Co. K found itself entirely out of touch of the rest of the battalion. Patrols working on the left reported that instead of elements of the 7th Infantry, fairly large forces of the enemy were sighted. It became necessary therefore to change position, withdraw sufficiently to uncover the rest of the battalion, and to then regain liaison. This was done and in its new position several machine guns, commanded by Lieutenant W. F. Thompson of the regimental company, joined Captain Moss's unit and preparations made for maintaining this extreme left flank of the Thirty-eighth's line.

About 6 a. m., two hours following the Third Battalion, the First Battalion crossed the bridge at Mezy and advanced northeasterly on the river road toward Jaulgonne. Advance guard elements were sufficient to wipe out the few machine guns and to clear the way of the remaining German rear guard troops. By 8 o'clock the head of the battalion was in Jaulgonne, with mopping up parties working on cellars and buildings.

Major Keeley now found the same difficulty of liaison as was retarding the other battalion's advance. The French

troops on the right could not be located. Patrols of the size of platoons found only Germans in the village of Barzy-sur-Marne where French infantry was supposed to be operating. By 10.30, after thoroughly clearing the enemy from Jaulgonne and the hill to the west, the First Battalion had established connection with the Third. And under orders from higher authority the Thirty-eighth proceeded alone and unsupported on either flank.

Desultory fire coming from the hill northeast of Jaulgonne gave proof that enemy forces were commanding the road toward le Charmel. In starting his advance, therefore, Major Keeley ordered Cos. A and C to march along the parallel road to the east. Lieutenant S. E. Leverett had returned with his patrol to Barzy and now started out as point for the battalion in the advance and also as additional protection on the right.

With the main body, consisting of Cos. B and D and augmented by Co. D of the 9th Machine Gun Battalion, under Captain C. I. Shelton, Major Keeley started in the direction of le Charmel about noon. Only occasional bursts of machine gun fire from the sides of the ravine bordering the road were encountered and the advance was therefore rapid. By 12.30 the leading elements of three platoons had reached le Charmel, the objective. Lieutenant Leverett's platoon had been on the right flank and reached le Charmel chateau; Lieutenant J. M. Boring had a platoon of Co. B on the road; and Lieutenant L. W. Farrar led another platoon from Co. B along the left ridge of hills.

These advance elements had encountered practically no opposition along the main road, but by 1 o'clock the main body was attacked from the left about opposite le Franquet farm. This indicated that the same enemy group which was retarding the progress of the Third Battalion was still maintaining a solid line of resistence. It was therefore necessary to order a withdrawal of the leading platoons from the objective.

In le Charmel the Boche had by this time appeared to dispute the advance and had launched a counter attack. Heavy machine gun fire was directed on the Thirty-eighth from north and northwest of the town. Lieutenant Charles F. Frizzell of Co. A was here wounded and taken prisoner. He and Lieutenant Calkins, who was taken on July 15, were the only officers of the Thirty-eighth to be captured during all the battles of the Summer and Fall.

During this fighting the advanced companies received the order to retire and form a line continuous with that being held by the Third Battalion. It became evident that the First Battalion had forged its way into a deep and narrow salient during its rapid progress toward le Charmel, and reports indicated that groups of enemy were surrounding it on both right and left. The main body along the road and in the vicinity of Argental farm was subjected to periodical attacks from Boche riflemen and machine gunners One of these bursts of fire killed Captain Ledford of Co. D and wounded several other officers and enlisted men.

Major Keeley then dispatched Captain Freehoff with Co. B to comb this territory on the left, rout these small enemy harassing groups and connect up with the Third Battalion. This latter unit had throughout the morning and afternoon hung on tenaciously to its positions in front of le Franquet farm and had gradually eliminated many of the enemy machine gun nests. By 5 o'clock, therefore, its line had been organized and solidified. Co. B then came up and took position on the right. The First Battalion then established a line continuing to the right as far as the Marne and protecting against counter attacks the town of Jaulgonne and territory north of it.

A bridgehead covering a wide front had now been established, amply guarding the ponton structure at Mezy and assuring the protection of another at Jaulgonne. The regimental left was still on top of Hill 210 in the Foret de Fere, but owing to the lack of flank protection no orders were issued to advance.

On July 23 the lines were more securely organized and straightened during a day of constant artillery bombardment. On several parts of the front excellent enemy observation permitted of direct fire by light artillery, trench mortars and whizz-bangs. In the afternoon battalions of the 4th and 7th Infantry regiments came up on the left and carried on the attack toward le Charmel and after midnight both First and Third battalions were relieved by the 30th Infantry. The First Battalion remained in cellars in Jaulgonne and the Third Battalion took shelter in a former German camp of dugouts on the hillside above Charteves.

The work of the Second Battalion during the attack of July 22 and fighting of July 23 was principally that of support. This unit crossed the Marne about 9:00 a. m. and its task was confined almost exclusively to supporting the front line battalions, maintaining liaison and sending out information patrols.

It seems all the more remarkable that the First and Third Battalions could have made their advances when it is pointed out that the attack was almost wholely lacking in artillery support. Indeed, Major Lough's battalion made its advance without a single shot from allied guns. Once in front of le Franquet farm artillery help was requested, but previously to that time there had been no barrage or preliminary bombardment to pave the way for the crossing of the Marne and for the advance up and across the heights of Hill 210. In the afternoon of the first day artillery came to help the First Battalion, but in many instances shells landed short and not only made it necessary to seek shelter temporarily, but actually caused casualties. Such occurrences are obviously unavoidable at times, yet nevertheless regrettable.

Colonel McAlexander points out several significant features of the sharp incessant fighting of July 22 in his report of operations:-

"During all these manoeuvres our troops had been subjected to severe shelling and constant machine gun fire. In

addition, enemy aeroplanes continually swooped down across our lines, raking them with machine guns. Considering the strong opposition of the enemy, the lack of food and sleep of our own men and the nature of the terrain crossed, the advance made on the first day was indeed a remarkable one. The difficulty of liaison through this wooded country was a serious one . . . . . There is no question that a much greater advance could have been made if we had had support on our right and left flanks."

Colonel McAlexander himself had followed the advance and attack from the beginning and throughout the morning and afternoon maintained a post of command on the road between Jaulgonne and Charteves. Here the enemy bombardment was intense and several casualties resulted among the officers and runners attached to headquarters. One shell, which exploded only a few feet from Colonel McAlexander, killed Lieutenant William Wallrich, regimental gas officer, and wounded Lieutenant T. F. Bresnahan, the signal officer.

But it was undoubtedly this „McAlexander spirit" which aided greatly the work of the attacking battalions. He was able to direct all operations close at hand, and to help in the organization of the two captured towns, Charteves and Jaulgonne. His field messages to the battalion commanders typify his faith and his appreciation of their work. To Major Keeley he once scribbled the following:-

"Stop where you are; protect your flanks until ridge to west can be cleared. 4th Inf. will be on our left in a couple of hours, but until then no advance is allowed by higher commanders. CONGRATULATE YOU ON YOUR PUSH."

A message to Major Lough of the Third Battalion follows:-

"4th Inf. should be abreast of you very soon. Co. F should be able to render you assistance. Have wired for all

kinds ammunition. The pressure on you should be relieved very soon. YOU HAVE DONE FINE WORK."

One message, subtle and full of meaning, was sent by Major Lough to the rear. It is here repeated:-

"We are holding and shall continue to do so till the 4th comes. But may have to ask the 2nd Bn. for help to cover my flanks. Am sending in 2 German prisoners, but I hope they try to escape."

CHAPTER XVII.

REGIMENT GETS SHORT BREATHING SPELL.

A few groups of the First Battalion were left in place for another half a day when the 30th Infantry made the relief on the night of July 23, but the remainder of the regiment tried to settle down to the enjoyment of a rest. The Thirty-eighth was now off front line duty for the first night since June 2, and although still under periodical artillery bombardment there was an immediate relaxation.

Companies of the Second Battalion had less than 75 effective fighters in their ranks and no company in the regiment had more than 100 men for duty. On July 25 replacement troops were brought across the Marne and distributed to the companies at Jaulgonne and Charteves. They proved to be patient listeners and well-behaved recruits. No survivor of the regiment's recent fighting was too tired to describe vividly the horrors and hell he had passed through and the newcomers heard all.

The kitchens had been the first to cross the Marne on the new bridge for vehicles constructed alongside of the foot ponton, and beginning with breakfast on July 24 served meals that never tasted better. Soldiers were ravenously hungry but the cooks had prepared for this.

Automobile trucks and army transport of every description began to cross the Marne. Artillery came

rumbling over to establish emplacements at Charteves and along the road toward le Charmel, and as troops of the 3rd Division continued their advance toward the Ourcq unbelievable sights were in store for the Thirty-eighth, now in reserve and camping on the heights overlooking the Marne.

A man gazing down on Charteves and Mezy and taking in at a glance the historic old river and its adjoining battlefields must rub his eyes in astonishment and unbelief. There across the river on the south bank was a real live railroad engine pulling a few cars behind it along the Paris-Metz railroad. Just imagine that! A bare ten days ago the same railroad was dripping in blood as fearless Americans fought with rifle, bayonet and pistol those hordes of onrushing Huns.

Charteves was a moving mass of infantry on the way to the front to relieve units of the division. Yet only three days before this shell-racked town had been inhabited by enemy snipers and patrols. Such is the war of movement. Pioneer troops of French and Americans came to clear the streets, raze to the ground threatening walls of demolished buildings, and clean up the town in general. Salvage parties immediately began work over the battlefields of the past ten days and graves registration squads commenced their ghastly duties of identifying the killed.

No more striking idea of the scene can be emphasized than to describe here an attempt to give the tired, dirty soldiers of the Thirty-eighth an opportunity to bathe in the Marne. Companies were formed in ranks and were about to march down to the river for a swim. They were turned back, however, when it was reported that hundreds of bodies, mostly Germans, lay on the banks decomposing.

Towns on both sides of the river seemed to return to life overnight. A few civilians, who had sought refuge as far south as Montmirail, came back to inspect their property. Y. M. C. A. canteens were set up in ruined buildings in Charteves and Mezy. Supplies began to arrive

by rail as fast as the engineers could rebuild the torn away lengths of track.

On July 28 the regiment was ordered back across the Marne into billets — such as they were — in Crezancy, Fossoy, Moulins, Paroy and Varennes. Here in the houses that had escaped total destruction under the recent shell-fire the men could make down their bunks and sleep off the exhaustion and nervous tension. Supplies began to come in to re-equip the companies of articles lost in action. And a light drill schedule of close order work, automatic rifle and grenade practice was carried out daily.

It was real, needed and appreciated rest. And the only discomforts were the nightly bombing parties of enemy 'planes. The regiment had been bombed at odd times during the weeks before, but here in the billeting towns bordering on the Marne the Huns made visits every night. There were no losses or casualties, however, in the Thirty-eighth although some of the batteries of artillery located on the edges of the towns suffered deaths of men and animals.

Several changes in officers occured during this period. Lt.-Col. Adams had been severely gassed during the Second Battle of the Marne and was evacuated on July 22. His successor for the next few weeks was Lt.-Col. Ancel C. Dietsch. Captain Whitten, regimental adjutant, had been promoted recently to a majority and was transferred to the 4th Infantry. Captain Parkinson, who succeeded him, was in turn promoted and in the following fighting on the Vesle River he commanded the Second Battalion. Captain Louis A. Merillat, Jr. relinquished his command of headquarters company when promoted and was transferred to the 4th Infantry. The position of adjutant, now vacated, was first held by Lieutenant Taylor and later by Lieutenant E. H. Rogers.

CHAPTER XVIII.

DECORATIONS AND CITATIONS.

It has been said that a soldier's acts of bravery fairly scare and frighten him as he looks back on them weeks afterward. The audacity of his own conduct is almost unbelievable. And during these few days in billets the troops of the Thirty-eighth had ample time to recall and marvel at their own doings and those of their comrades. No regiment which has seen service in the American Expeditionary Forces has a prouder record behind it. No organization has seen any harder fighting.

On July 27, Colonel McAlexander issued the following:-

GENERAL ORDER No. 1
(From the field) 27th July, 1918.

To the Officers and Men of the 38th U. S. Infantry:-

The Colonel commanding the regiment wishes to praise you for the heroic manner in which you took your baptism of fire on July 15, 1918, upon the banks of the Marne. No regiment in the history of our nation has ever shown a finer spirit or performed a greater deed. Let us cherish within our hearts the memory of our fallen comrades. Salute them, then Forward.

McALEXANDER.

The regiment had suffered more than one thousand casualties during the fighting from July 15 to 23. No man was left who had not experienced the lump in his throat

when his buddy or friend made the supreme sacrifice. Yet these misfortunes of war had halted no one. On the contrary, they had, if anything, spurred the others on in a spirit of revenge to essay and accomplish further tasks.

This history is by far too short to attempt to record all or any considerable number of the acts of bravery. Indeed, if any officer or man shirked his duty or failed to do the utmost expected of him, such isolated cases have long since been lost and forgotten. But of those whose valor was exceptional, of those whose acts were witnessed by higher commanders and reported, a very few must herein be mentioned. To the others apologies must be made for lack of time in the preparation of this volume and lack of space.

As these chapters are being written only a few of the many decorations and citations have been actually awarded. The others have been held up at higher headquarters, but it will be only a matter of weeks before several scores of medals will justly come. The regiment's former commander, now Brigadier General U. G. McAlexander, 180th Brigade, 90th Division, has received to date the Croix de Guerre with Palm from the French Army but is soon to get the award of an American decoration. To Lt.-Col. Adams, Major Rowe and Captain Wooldridge, all since promoted, have come the Distinguished Service Cross. They were recommended in July for the Congressional Medal of Honor with the following citations:-

(Lieut. Colonel Adams)

For conspicuous gallantry in action on July 15, 1918 against the German Army, when he, with heroic courage and daring under an intense shell fire, repeatedly rallied disorganized troops of other units and returned them to the lines, where they were able to render most valuable service.

(Major Rowe)

For conspicuous gallantry in action 15 July, 1918. With splendid courage and excellent judgment, he held his position on the Marne River for 14 1/2 hours although greatly outnumbered and attacked on his front and on both flanks until he was ordered to withdraw under cover of darkness.

(Captain Wooldridge)

For conspicuous gallantry in action 15 July, 1918. With splendid courage he led a counter-attack of his Company G, 38th Infantry, against five times his own numbers and inflicted a loss of over one thousand (1,000) on the enemy who were attacking the left flank of his battalion; 189 rifles entered the counter-attack and 51 rifles merged untouched by enemy fire.

The most picturesque bravery is obviously seen in the acts of those of the lower ranks. And in the Thirty-eighth the work of the lieutenants, sergeants, corporals and privates stops nothing short of the miraculous. It is more than devotion to duty; it is unqualified heroism.

For example, look at the recommendation for a decoration made in behalf of Corporal John Connors, Co. H, who was killed in action:-

Kept two automatic rifles in operation in the face of machine gun fire and prevented the landing of many German boats. His squad remained at their posts until all were killed and his splendid courage must have been the incentive which prompted such heroic action. He was struck by a machine gun bullet while in the act of throwing a hand grenade at a German boat. The grenade exploded in his hand.

The recommendation of Corporal Orville Hardy, machine gun company, shows unexcelled fearlessness:-

Remained at his gun under machine gun, artillery, and rifle fire after all his gun squad had been wounded or killed and continued to fire gun until the last cartridge was fired. He then removed firing mechanism and fought his way back to the infantry line with his pistol.

To find sheer audacity of action, examine the recommendation of Private Pete Rosecky, Co. F, an officer's striker:-

Operated an automatic rifle in emergency, keeping the gun in action although the bipod was shot completely off, and the gun knocked out of his hands; immediately got a rock for a gun rest and continued firing his gun.

The action of Mess Sergeant Otto Wolz, Co. H, who finding no necessary duties at his company kitchen, left it

in charge of the senior cook and rejoined his company on the front, is described as follows:-

Came through a heavy bombardment to join his company. He was severely wounded by shrapnel while trying to rescue Sgt. Unkauf, wounded, who was lying on the river bank in plain view of the enemy in broad daylight. Before leaving on this mission he said to his company commander: "I probably will not make it in the face of that shelling but I will try it for a pal."

Similar action of 3600 other officers and men was varied only by degrees. If a soldier of the Thirty-eighth faced a task during those days of fighting he essayed to complete it. If he did not succeed it was because he was wounded or killed. The recommendations and proposed citations of several other members of the regiment follow by way of example:-

(2nd Lieut. W. H. Haynes)

Who has repeatedly shown the greatest bravery and inspiring leadership. On July 15th, 1918, he hastily gathered a few men, closed a gap in our lines, retaking American prisoners and killing their captors.

(2nd Lieut. Raleigh L. Younger)

22 July, 1918 — After having been wounded in both hands, took a rifle from one of his men and killed the man operating the machine gun and in spite of his wounds remained with his platoon until it had been put in position on a new line several hours later.

(2nd Lieut. David L. Wood, Jr.)

22 July, 1918 — While engaged with enemy, by an inspiring example maintained great steadiness in his platoon, which occupied the most exposed position; personally cared for his wounded and bore them to the rear in an orderly withdrawal over ground drenched with bullets.

(Private Ist Class George H. Bishop)

Who single handed killed an entire machine gun squad of the enemy and returned to his lines with the machine gun.

(Private Illin Shawenk)

Who under a terrific shell fire went forward and alone captured twelve prisoners.

The Thirty-eighth, long before the Second Battle of the Marne, had come to appreciate the work of the Y. M. C. A. secretaries, but during those fighting days it had ample cause to marvel These uniformed civilians wearing the Red Triangle stayed constantly with their battalions, carrying wounded, burying dead, and assisting in every possible way. During the days of July 15 and 16 practically no ambulances reached the front areas of the Thirty-eighth and but for the untiring and courageous efforts of one Y. M. C. A. man, using his own automobile, many seriously wounded soldiers would have died before being evacuated. This recommendation for a Distinguished Service Medal reads as follows:-

Mr. Richard C. Shreve, of Rochester, N. Y., attached to Y. M. C. A., 38th Infantry — With splendid heroic courage and disregard of personal danger he rendered first aid to wounded in shell-beaten areas and removed them in his auto to places of safety during July 15—16 when no other transportation was available.

Many of the recommendations which have been forwarded were those describing and commending work with the wounded. No soldier in any army ever hesitated to move, when possible, a helpless comrade to shelter and safety. But the intense devotion to duty and the heroism of Captain H. W. Daniels must be mentioned here. Captain Daniels was battalion surgeon of the Second Battalion on the front. All day long on July 15 hundreds of wounded passed through his aid station at Paroy and were evacuated. In the evening, when the battalion was ordered withdrawn, Captain Daniels had more than 40 litter patients still unmoved and he refused to go back with the battalion. Instead, he remained on guard of them during the night of the 15th and until late afternoon on July 16, when an automobile truck came through to Paroy to carry these wounded men to the rear. During these two days and one

night the aid station was repeatedly attacked by small enemy groups. These were held off by Captain Daniels and several Medical Department men and litter bearers who remained faithfully with him on guard. The surgeon himself engaged in several pistol duels with the enemy. On the afternoon of July 19 Captain Daniels returned to Paroy to recover some equipment and instruments left behind but was shot by a sniper and died a few hours later.

The heroism of Mess Sergeant Barney Hagen of Co. B has evoked many a word of praise in the regiment. Actually, he planned his course of action as soon as the Thirty-eighth arrived on the front line early in June. Sergeant Hagen announced to his cooks that whenever fighting occured they were to run the affairs of the kitchen for he intended to join the company. And so he did.

On July 15 and following days he reported to Captain Freehoff and assisted First Sergeant John M. Coughlin in organizing platoons which were without a lieutenant in command. On July 22 he crossed the Marne hours ahead of his kitchen and found remnants of Co. B fighting in the Foret de Fere. There he organized scattered squads and personally directed and led attacks against enemy machine guns. On the Vesle River, when only one officer was left with Co. B, Sergeant Hagen went to the front and acted as second in command. In the severe fighting along the Meuse River in October he once more left his kitchen to join his organization on the front.

CHAPTER XIX.

ORDERED TO THE VESLE RIVER.

The first of August still found the Thirty-eighth in billets near the Marne, wondering rather impatiently when the relief would come. All signs pointed to a movement back out of shell fire and into a quiet billeting area for real rest, for the regiment had now been on the front or within supporting distance for exactly two months.

But here it was—resting in the villages of Crezany, Paroy, Moulins and Fossoy—that another order of battle was received after dark on the evening of Aug. 3. Plans had even been made to allow officers and men short leaves and passes. Yet suddenly all was changed.

„The 6th Brigade will advance toward the Vesle River". This was the field order which came simultaneously from division and brigade headquarters. The regiment was summoned to assemble at Crezancy and move northward in French camions to take up the chase and continue forcing the rout of the Germans in Marshal Foch's great succession of counter-blows.

What an envious feeling it was that night to know that other regiments in the 3rd Division—certainly not any the more fatigued—were to stay behind! Only the 30th and Thirty-eighth infantry regiments and the 9th Machine Gun Battalion were included in the order to move.

The regiment had assembled by midnight, but the actual start from Crezancy was delayed until daylight on Aug. 4. As the rising sun brought forth a glorious day, the seemingly endless train of automobiles carried the regiment over the Marne bridge at Mezy, along the road to le Charmel, where the First Battalion had driven the Boche a few days before, and through Fere-en-Tardenois. Discarded equipment and unburied American and German bodies here and there along the route described mutely the intensity of the recent fighting.

The Thirty-eighth debussed in a woods two kilometres north of Roncheres about 9.00 a. m. and spent a full day in a heavy rain. Kitchens came up in the afternoon, however, and provided a hot meal preparatory to completing the journey that night.

At dusk a march of 21 kilometres commenced. And of all the hikes taken by the regiment, not even excepting those strenuous ordeals during the St. Mihiel drive in September, that night of Aug. 4 furnished the most wearying march of any. Orders prohibited using the roads, and with Colonel McAlexander himself at the head and on foot, the regimental column swung over hills, through valleys, across brooks and swamps, skirting the edges of woods, and passing the suburbs of Coulanges and Cohan. An hour after starting the drizzle of rain turned into a downpour and mens' packs became heavier by the minute. France has never known a more rainy night, nor a darker one. Platoon and squad leaders continually lost connection as the long double column of files hurried over this hilly country.

Soon after midnight the head of the regiment butted up against something at the Mont-sur-Courville crossroads, about five kilometres south of Fismes. That something on the night of Aug. 4 was a terrific artillery bombardment on the road leading north. Orders directed the Thirty-eighth to relieve French infantry in the village of St. Gilles, but St. Gilles was the very next town and between it and

the column were a million flashes on the ground where German high explosive and gas shells were striking.

But the march had to continue. The Third Battalion, in the lead, reached a bridge on the outskirts of St. Gilles only to find it down. Artillery fire was incessant and from short range, too, for German batteries were still on the hills flanking St. Gilles. These gun positions were later found to be scarcely 600 metres from the regiment. French guides were expected to lead into place the First and Third Battalions, who were to make the relief. There were no guides. Instead, there was nothing except the explosions all around of 77's and one-pounders.

Then followed a two hour wait in a road that was a running rivulet of rain water and knee-deep in mud. Soldiers huddled under the scant protection of their slickers and took chances that shells would miss them. There were very few casualties from either H. E. or gas.

As dawn began to break there was only one solution—find shelter and reconnoitre the positions of the uncharted French battalions. Major Lough then led his Third Battalion back into Mont-sur-Courville. It is no exaggeration to record here that those barn floors, covered with manure, in Mont-sur-Courville were welcomed with the same enthusiasm as the sight of a feather bed at any other time. Houses in the town were reported mined, but into stables and sheds men of the Thirty-eighth, fatigued, foot-sore, and wringing wet, piled eagerly. The First and Second Battalions went back still further to the town of Arcis-le-Ponsard to sleep off complete exhaustion in similar „billets".

During the afternoon of Aug. 5 Majors Keeley and Lough went forward to reconnoitre the positions in St. Gilles but found a much improved state of affairs. The French had advanced early in the day from St. Gilles to the south bank of the Vesle, pressing back the Germans everywhere, and this manoeuvre had been coupled with an attack by the 32nd American Division, which had on the same day entered the important town of Fismes. After dark

on Aug. 5 the First Battalion then went forward to relieve the 147th French infantry regiment. Co. D advanced to the tiny village of Villette, two kilometres east of Fismes, and placed one platoon on the south bank of the Vesle. The other elements of the battalion occupied positions in a gully north of St. Gilles. The Third Battalion moved to a hillside southwest of St. Gilles and there relieved the 18th Chasseurs a Pièd in a position of support. The Second Battalion, now being commanded by Major Parkinson remained in reserve at Arcis-le-Ponsard.

A more nasty position than that at Villette cannot be imagined. With roads churned up with shell holes and mine craters, ambulances could not reach the little hamlet; aid stations must by necessity remain back at St. Gilles; and all in all it gave one the feeling of isolation up there on the Vesle banks. German snipers, remaining in Fismes and Villette, were constantly active, and a few enemy machine guns on the south of the river, which had escaped the French advance, added to the discomforts.

Rough work began to occur almost immediately after Lieutenant Leverett, now commanding Co. D, had moved his company into place. Hardly had the platoon on the river completed its relief when a strong body of Germans crossed the footbridges and raided the lightly held forward line. Hand grenades flew like rice at a wedding, but the platoon stuck. Major Keeley immediately began to strengthen his front, however, and by nightfall instead of one platoon all four companies occupied positions along the Vesle.

The sector was similar in many respects to the Marne. Fifty yards south of the narrow river is the main railroad line running between Soissons and Rheims, and into the reverse embankment of this the First Battalion dug fox-holes for protection. Outposts of the enemy were less than one hundred metres north and protected by the scattered clumps of trees and bushes which border the river.

A particularly nasty feature of this Vesle River sector was the location of the battalion post of command. It was in a not-too-deep cellar in Villette but absolutely unprotected on the front against the enemy. The battalion line was two hundred yards to its left, the positions of adjoining French units two hundred yards to the right, and the nature of the exposed ground in between prevented closer connection. The P. C. stood out like a sore thumb, day and night exposed to artillery and machine gun fire. Never did an officer, litter bearer or runner negotiate a mission to the battalion but what he must run a gauntlet of snipers and Boche machine gunners who were ever awake. Even in going to the nearest company a liaison agent had to make the distance by a series of short rushes and lie flat against the ground in the intervals, while a score of bullets sizzled just over his head.

The problem of evacuating wounded from the Vesle was a serious one. Back of Villette a steep and exposed hill was a barrier over which no ambulance could travel. Instead, the Red Cross automobiles were obliged to go to Fismes and then easterly on the road to Villette all the time under close observation and generally under fire. Neither could they reach the little village. A gigantic mine crater effectually closed the road about 600 metres from Villette and litter squads had the gruelling labor of carrying the seriously wounded that long distance.

CHAPTER XX.

HARD FIGHTING NEAR FISMES.

Holding the front line on the Vesle was never at any time a quiet, serene duty. Overlooking the winding stream were rather high hills, grooved every few hundred metres with deep gullies and ravines and providing excellent artillery and machine gun emplacements. Day and night the positions along the railroad were shelled intensely. Stray machine gun nests on the south side of the river, particularly in the French sector on the right, opened up with infilading fire at regular intervals, and if an officer or man had no urgent business elsewhere it behooved him to stay near his own fox-hole.

The First Battalion held this kind of a line through the day of Aug. 6, strengthening the position as much as possible. During the morning of Aug. 7 came an order that is not likely to be forgotten in ages by veterans of the Thirty-eighth. The 6th Brigade ordered the regiment to cross the river at 3.30 p. m. — in broad daylight — and establish bridgeheads on the plateau three kilometres north of the river.

For more than 24 hours these troops had realized what was in front of them, had appreciated the strength and numbers of German machine guns; had seen artillery range shot after shot on the river's edge Yet here was an attack order to advance over country that offered no

promise of success. An advance in darkness or even in an early morning dusk seemed possible, but this order called for a daylight attack. If that order failed to shatter the Thirty-eighth's spirit and morale — and it didn't — no other order in the next thousand years will.

These heights north of the Vesle formed one of the principal defenses of the enemy and to be ousted from them meant that he must retire all the way to the Aisne. As it afterward resulted the German resistence on the Vesle was so heavy that the line there remained practically unbroken for several weeks. Only at the village of Fismette did American forces succeed in crossing the Vesle and hanging on to the conquered ground.

The Thirty-eighth's attack was scheduled to start from the river at 3.30 p. m., was to be preceded by an eight-minute stationary artillery barrage on the north bank and then followed by a 30-minute creeping barrage behind which would come the regiment. The First Battalion was to make the initial assault, be supported throughout by the Second Battalion, with the Third Battalion following the Second.

There was no American artillery in this sector, none having been ordered to the Vesle when the 6th Brigade was sent up from the Marne district. When the zero hour arrived one thing was vividly noticable. The barrage was lacking. But Captain H. F. Combs of Co. C moved out his assaulting lines, the first wave of rifles led by Lieutenant H. W. Keith. Arriving at the bridge, being constructed by French engineers, it was discovered that the pontons had not been completed and a full hour's wait followed. At about 4.30 o'clock Lieutenant Keith took his men across, followed in turn by the first and second platoons of Co. C, under Lieutenant C. M. McCall. But progress was checked immediately. From the front, from the left and right flanks, even from the right rear, enemy machine gun fire of the hottest kind was poured into the attackers. The troops

could only scamper over the narrow bridge and then crawl or roll into their assigned places.

Left of Co. C Lieutenant F. W. Rich was endeavoring to get his Co. B across on a narrow bridge which the Germans had left undemolished. But here machine gun fire was directed not only on the troops but on both the south and north approaches to the bridge. Only a handful of men from Co. B succeeded in gaining the farther bank, several of these by swimming.

And still the artillery barrage never came. A more concentrated fire of enemy machine guns was scarcely ever directed upon small bodies of troops than upon Cos. B and C on the afternoon of Aug. 7. Many of the nests were as near as 35 metres and under protecting cover. Lieutenant Keith's men simply hugged the ground. It would have been foolhardy to try to advance farther. In trying to straighten his lines, Lieutenant McCall was mortally wounded.

There was only one course of action — that was to withdraw. And at dusk the platoons were able to cross back to their original positions, under fire, but without additional casualties.

Credit belongs where due, and soldiers of the First Battalion do not hesitate to pay thankful tribute to that particular German organization which faced them on the Vesle. Germans have bombed hospitals, everyone knows; they have shelled field dressing stations; they have fired at Allied ambulances and disregarded generally the conditions of the Geneva conference. But on that afternoon they allowed two litter bearers, wearing the Red Cross brassards, to cross the Vesle in plain view and to come within a few yards of their machine gun positions in order to pick up and carry back Lieutenant McCall. Not a shot was fired until the stretcher men were well back on their way to a dressing station. Then the usual fire was resumed. It was a gracious act of courtesy in battle.

During these activities of the First Battalion, the Second Battalion was faring as badly, in the matter of casualties, if not worse. Major Parkinson kept his battalion near St. Gilles until nearly the hour for the attack and then took it in a double column of twos along the road toward Fismes and thence easterly to the river positions. But to arrive there it passed through a veritable curtain of shell fire.

Because of the closeness of the front lines along the Vesle, the Boche found it impossible to concentrate artillery fire there but did lay down a bombardment along the route of the battalion marching up in support. On through it these troops had to plough their way with 77's and 150's actually dropping in the ranks and along the road. They reached the river, but were not needed, and after spending part of the night in position along the railroad between the First Battalion and the 112th Infantry, on the left, they returned to Arcis-le-Ponsard.

The reason for the absolute lack of artillery support in the attack was not learned until late that night. Two orders arrived, the unexcusable delay of which had been the sole cause for several deaths and scores of wounds. The first read that the zero hour for the attack was to be changed from 3.30 to 4.30. The second abandoned the operation altogether. The French artillery liaison officer later learned that no order had been received to furnish a barrage but that the observer had directed a weak harassing fire on enemy support areas when he saw the American troops crossing the Vesle.

Orders that designated the 6th Brigade to go to the Vesle indicated that the tour of duty would be for „four or five nights". On Aug. 8, the fifth day and with no relief in sight, it became necessary to send the Third Battalion to replace the First. Major Lough's battalion had been under spasmodic shell fire and aeroplane attacks in its support position near St. Gilles for three days and although fatigued and weakened by the epidemic of dysentery which was

ravaging the regiment in August, it had one advantage. Its men had had one or two meals daily whereas for troops on the Vesle bank hard bread and „tin willy" were rare luxuries.

On the night of Aug. 8—9, through a severe gas bombardment on the heights to the south of the river, which served to roll the mustard and phosgene back down into the valley, the Third Battalion began its share of the horrors of the Vesle. The relief arrived at the railroad positions with approximately twice the strength in numbers of the depleted First Battalion. While large patrols skirted the edges of Fismes for lingering Boche who had attempted a raid early in the evening, the remaining men dug more shelters and fox-holes to extend the already wide battalion front.

The morning brought a new thrill; even to troops who had endured everything since July 15 it was a shudder. Another attack and assault on the northern bridgehead positions was ordered, this time, however, to be made by the 30th Infantry which had hitherto remained back in reserve since coming from the Marne district. The Thirty-eighth was to follow up the attack.

Colonel Cromwell Stacey of the 30th, who had relieved Colonel E. L. Butts the week before, arrived to take command, but by daylight only two platoons of his regiment, under Captain F. L. Culin, had reached positions of readiness. There was no waiting. These small units were ordered across the Vesle, along with two 37 mm guns and a platoon of machine gunners under Captain C. P. Duson of the 9th Machine Gun Battalion.

The scene of two days before was enacted again. A handful of men reached the northern bank only to be faced by a wall of machine gun bullets. Enemy guns, holding them at bay from the front, also directed fire on the railroad embankment and the attackers were obliged to run back to safety one man at a time. A few never got back. For the next three hours volunteers from the Thirty-eighth performed

extraordinary acts of bravery in rushing out from their positions to bring in wounded from another regiment.

Even a third endeavor to cross the river was planned. Three officer's patrols of 40 men each were ordered from the Third Battalion of the Thirty-eighth to push as far as the heights north of the Vesle. These were prepared but lives were spared when the order came to withhold the attempt.

The relief by a French battalion on the night of Aug. 9 was delayed and for another 24 hours of intense heat, intermittent sniping, irregular machine gun fire, steady artillery bombardment, with little or nothing to eat and worst of all no opportunity to obtain drinking water, the Third Battalion waited until after 1.00 o'clock on the morning of Aug. 11 before turning over the sector to the French. Six hours later it had hiked the 19 kilometres to Vezilly, where the regiment assembled, and by nightfall the Thirty-eighth was as happy a body of soldiers as will ever wear a smile. It had been taken in camions back to Crezancy and vicinity and a speedy return to a billeting area was assured.

Those days near Fismes along the banks of the Vesle River will forever be regarded as ones of torture and pain. Although actually only a minor operation, fighting had all the severity that characterizes great battles. The regiment had been exhausted on the Marne. And on the Vesle the aimless attacks, extremely hot days, lack of food, inability to obtain drinking water and the general sickness throughout with diarrhea and dysentery called forth the last ounce of stamina in every man.

The casualties were fairly severe. Two officers and 78 enlisted men were killed, and 10 officers and 281 men wounded. In addition to these losses in action, each company suffered from sickness and disease and many men were evacuated to hospitals where they were lost to the regiment during long periods of convalescence.

CHAPTER XXI.

BACK IN BILLETS.

Soldiers of the Thirty-eighth hopped off the camions in the towns of Crezancy, Fossoy, Moulins and Paroy with a whoop and a yell. They felt at home here and each platoon straightway piled into the sheds, garrets and houses it had occupied ten days before. Half the men could not talk above a whisper as a result of the gassing they received on the Vesle. The other half were sick with dysentery and in civilian life would have knocked off work and visited a physician. Not so with soldiers, however. The certainty that the regiment was now out of shell fire and ready to be taken back into inhabitable France acted as a cure for all ailments.

There was another striking feature as the troops sought their billets. Every man was foot-sore from the long morning's hike back to Vezilly, every man was extremely dirty from the period of front line duty, and every man was fatigued from the long ride in automobile trucks. But does anyone imagine for an instant that these soldiers settled down immediately for a night's sleep? Not by a jug-full! Even in the darkness, and by candle light, the majority of men of this regiment set about to police themselves up. Safety razors hoed at long, curly crops of grimy whiskers, and cakes of issue soap melted away with use. Some men

even took their o. d. shirts and their socks to the public wash houses and came away with clean garments.

Such are the results of training in the new American army of today. The principle that cleanliness makes soldiers fit and well and keeps them healthy had been inoculated in all. And here on the night of Aug. 11, a regiment of fighting sons-of-guns forgot for a half hour that it was tired and needful of sleep in order to police up and turn in for the night as a healthy, wholesome body of men. This frame of mind in the military service is perhaps unappreciated by civilians, but it is only typical of the new-born improvement that the five million nephews of Uncle Sam, who have been in olive drab, are going to carry back with them into their lives and environments when they are mustered out.

Along about 10 o'clock this same night the best news the officers had heard in ages came to all companies via the runners from regimental headquarters. It was that 24-hour leaves to Paris — the city of all cities — would be granted on the morrow. To the A. E. F. such a treat can be appreciated. In America, Paris and France are synonymous terms. But not so with General Pershing's army. Heretofore, Paris had been on a far-away plane, beyond the reach of all except for the few who had ligitimate, important and official business there. Colonel McAlexander must have chuckled to himself as he wrote on each leave slip, „for permission to buy uniforms and equipment".

It was a good excuse and it was learned later that one or two officers actually did buy something — something other than those articles for sale at the Cafe de la Paix or at Ciro's. But it was not a sightseeing tour. The Notre Dame or the Louvre were certainly not crowded with critics of art. Indeed, many officers confessed that even the Seine, which cuts Paris in two, was not included in their itinerary, and they even missed seeing Eifel Tower, which hangs over the city like an umbrella. Yet they had a wonderful day Paris can always guarantee that.

Another group of officers followed in their wake on Aug. 13, motoring the six kilometres from Crezancy to Chateau Thierry and there taking the French trains that were again running on schedule for the first time in months. Chateau Thierry typified the spirit of French people. Once a home, a place always is their home. And hardly had the Allies initiated their counter-attack away from the Marne on July 18 than civilians began to return to Chateau Thierry. By early August they were flocking back, re-opening homes and shops which had not been too badly ruined by shell fire, and beginning anew to restore the hustle and bustle of this important French town on the Marne. French engineering troops were already hard at work restoring the massive bridge across the river which had been dynamited, and pioneer infantry was clearing away the debris and rubbish around the shell-torn districts.

Additional leaves to Paris were cut short on Thursday, Aug. 15. A train of motor camions formed in Crezancy, took aboard the Thirty-eighth and began the trip that was to return the regiment to billets for the first time since May. From May 30, when the first troops entrained at Latrecy, it had been 78 days and all except less than two weeks of this period the regiment had been on front line duty.

This trip in motor lorries was down the Surmelin valley, past the towns of Condé-en-Brie and Montigny-les-Condé and through the city of Montmirail. These places, now throbbing again with civilian life, seemed almost to be giving the Thirty-eighth a smile of thanks for having saved them from a German invasion in the Second Battle of the Marne. The regiment de-bussed in Joiselle, ten kilometres south of Montmirail, where the 3rd Division was entraining for the Gondrecourt billeting area. One night was spent here under pup tents and on the following evening the companies began the 10-hour trip, detraining at Houdelaincourt about daylight. Colonel McAlexander took the Third Battalion, the machine gun and supply companies

to Demange-aux-Eaux where regimental headquarters was established. The First and Second Battalions stopped in Houdelaincourt and the headquarters company was assigned to a small village, Baudignecourt.

These towns were clean and provided satisfactory billeting accomodations, but it has always seemed a pity to troops in France that a return to original billeting areas could not have been ordered. Several soldiers on pass during August visited again Arc-en-Barrois, Couprey, Cour-le-Veque, Creancy and Montribourg, now occupied by another regiment, and found there the French people intensely interested in the Thirty-eighth, solicitous over the welfare of those men they knew by name, and anxious for the regiment to return for another stay. They insisted the Thirty-eighth was „their regiment", that it belonged to them, and that they should again have the privilege of housing it.

The 18th Infantry regiment of the 1st Division had been in the Gondrecourt area a year before and people there knew soldiers. They welcomed us and seemed appreciative of our fighting for France. But there was something of a different feeling than among those Haute Marne natives. In August the regiment found that prices on beer, wines and shop trinkets had soared two or three hundred percent., and it behooved a soldier to be frugal if he wanted to retain a few centimes and francs.

Life in Demange, Houdelaincourt and Baudignecourt was pleasant, all in all. The month of August was summer-like, yet not too hot. Except for training on the rifle range, games and amusements were generally substituted for drills in the hot afternoons.

In this billeting area the Thirty-eighth came to know what a wonderful friend is the Salvation Army. This organization never worked with the 3rd Division continually, but in the three billeting towns near Gondrecourt it did establish canteens and furnish to this regiment home-made

cooking in the form of dripping hot doughnuts, ice-cold lemonade, apple pies and other goodies.

The typical Salvation Army hut is operated by a man, his wife, and his daughter. And among the three what isn't furnished to the American soldier in the way of tempting things to eat and gracious little favors isn't worth having. These wonderful workers didn't stop with dispensing food and soft drinks. If a private had a button off his blouse or a tear in his breeches, he didn't leave that Salvation Army hut until after a motherly, gray-haired woman had seated herself by his side and had plied her needle, thread and thimble, all the while talking to him and telling him of things all boys away from home like to hear.

Soldiers, fighting, front-line soldiers, are not often sentimental. But men of this regiment have made one lasting resolve. Here it is in the form so frequently expressed by the average buck private:- „If they ever shake their little old tambourine in my face after I get home to the States you can bet that the Salvation Army can have my last nickle."

During this rest period another order was received to send as instructors to the training camps in the States officers and non-coms from the Thirty-eighth. Tentative instructions indicated that a detail would be dispatched every week, but as was the case on the Marne , the fighting which followed in September and October cut short this exodus of Thirty-eighth's veterans. However, six officers did receive the enviable document that ordered them to Brest for transportation. First on this list was Lieutenant Taylor who started back once before. On July 14 he reported to regimental headquarters and was to leave on the following morning, but the Second Battle of the Marne thwarted his aspirations and he remained on duty until August. With him five other officers, fresh from their varied experiences on the Marne and the Vesle, went home to instruct the newly formed regiments of the National Army. They were Lieutenants Thomas D. Suiter, machine gun company;

William B. Pitts, Co. L; Joel A. Jordan, Co. D; H. J. Bush, Co. F; and C. T. Lyons, First Battalion supply officer.

Replacement troops, including some non-commissioned officers, joined the depleted ranks of the Thirty-eighth during the two and one-half weeks in August spent in billets. Many of these had been wounded or evacuated because of sickness while fighting with other combat regiments in the A. E. F. and company officers found it much easier to assimilate these newcomers than had been the case with previous and entirely inexperienced replacements.

But the drilling continued even for the veterans of the battles on the Marne and on the Vesle and particular emphasis was laid on target practice and range work. The regiment had learned what to expect of its weapons and what were the important special arms. And from this experience the V. B. rifle grenade and the Chauchat automatic rifle came in for a bigger share of the hours of instruction. Training was necessary, too, in fireworks and signal pyrotechnics. Those days in billets were by no means days of complete rest. Platoons marched to the ranges and drill grounds daily, spent a morning under sun that bronzed the faces of all, and in the afternoon carried on with gas-mask drill and athletics.

For many of the officers and several hundred enlisted men, a few days of vacation arrived during the last week of August. Colonel McAlexander granted 48-hour leaves — an improvement over the previous allowance but still not nearly enough — to visit the Boulevard des Italiens and the Place de l'Opera. And for approximately 20 percent. of the enlisted personnel of each company passes were given to spend seven days away from the regiment. Many of the men took this opportunity for seeing Marseilles, Lyons and southern France and others went back to the Arc-en-Barrois area to renew acquaintanceships with our first friends in France.

There was a significance in the stories of all as they returned. Whether it was the private who heard the rumor

in a Y. M. C. A. casino at Lyons or the captain who heard it in the lobby of the Folies Bergère, both brought back to the regiment a similar report. „Something big is coming off," they insisted. „The whole A. E. F. is talking about a monster drive. Is it toward Metz? Is it toward Luxembourg? Where is it?" By the first days of September nothing else was discussed even in ordinary conversation. Finally it simmered down to the certainty that the American forces in France were being massed near Toul. Even aviators, those lucky soldiers who do not sleep in dug-outs and whose alleged accomplishments are not always given full credence by the doughboys, began to tear themselves away from Paris and start eastward toward the Toul sector.

Important changes in officers occured late in August. Colonel McAlexander, the keystone, the under-pinning of the „Rock of the Marne regiment", received orders that were to separate him from his regiment. His deeds, his evidence of keen military judgment, his valor were not to allow him to remain a regimental commander. Discarding his silver eagles, he pinned a single shiny star on each shoulder and went to report as Brigadier-General U. G. McAlexander of the 90th Division. He did not say „good-bye". What he did say was „au revoir", for we saw him many, many times afterward in the Argonne-Meuse fighting, leading, not directing, his 180th Infantry Brigade into action.

Had General McAlexander left any other officer except Lieut.-Col. Frank H. Adams in command of the Thirty-eighth, the history of this regiment would certainly have been quite different. As it was he left a long-experienced soldier, an energetic and capable commander of troops, and a man who knows no fear and wants his regiment to have the same attitude. Under Colonel Adams the Thirty-eighth did not check its work. On the contrary, if anything, it speeded up to more efficiency, for if any regiment ever respected its commanding officer and admired him for what he has done, can do, and will do, that regiment is the Thirty-eighth and that K. O. is Colonel Adams.

And what happened? The Thirty-eighth entered the arduous, almost endless fighting along the Meuse a tired, fatigued, wet and well-nigh worn out regiment from its ordeal of hiking and marching in the St. Mihiel drive. But did it weaken, did it fall down on its job, did it scatter and run? Not so as you could notice it. What did it do? It took over a slice of front line, dug its toes into the jumping-off mark, and fairly sprinted through a sector of the Kriemhilde Stellung of the „invincible" Hindenburg line to reach an objective on Oct. 9 that other regiments had been trying for in vain.

Changes in lower ranks were also being made during the period in billets. Lieutenant Claude E. Gaskins, who had been in command of the supply company practically since the regiment's organization, won a long-deserved advancement and continued to command this important unit, now as a full captain. Lieutenants Stephen Karasek and John H. Freeman, formerly his assistants, also put on two bars, the former to command the headquarters company and the latter to succeed Captain Thebaud as personnel adjutant. Captain Thebaud took command of Co. I. Lieutenant Rogers became regimental adjutant, Lieutenant Robinson Murray was made intelligence officer and Lieutenant Bresnahan took over the affairs of Co. L, all having been promoted.

Two important changes were being made in higher commands. Major General Beaumont B. Buck succeeded General Dickman, who became a corps commander, as chief of the 3rd Division. General Buck had been a brigade commander in the 1st Division, where for exceptional gallantry he had won the D. S. C., the French Legion of Honor and the Croix de Guerre with Palm. General Crawford was at this time relieved as commanding officer of the 6th Brigade and his successor was Brigadier General O. E. Hunt.

CHAPTER XXII.

IN THE ST. MIHIEL DRIVE.

During the first days of September battalion commanders in the Thirty-eighth began to wear a look ot seriousness. They made plans and directed training with a knowing air. For they had been summoned to division headquarters where they were taken into conferences about the coming drive. They returned to Houdelaincourt and Demange with brand new maps and field orders and printed on all were the words „St. Mihiel". It was certain now that the four-year-old bulge in the allied line was in for its share of trimming.

Orders to pack up and leave the billeting area arrived on the morning of Sept. 5, were countermanded in the afternoon, and then put into effect just after dark. A preparation carried on under the difficulties of darkness put the regiment on the road about 9:00 p. m. and then followed an all-night march in the rain. The direction was eastward, toward the Joan d'Arc country, and daylight brought the regiment to the tiny village of Montigny-les-Vaucouleurs where only the Second Battalion found billets in the homes. The other units marched into the wooded hills surrounding the town and pitched shelter halves to escape the rain. This marked the first day of troop movements toward the St. Mihiel salient

and orders, above all, insisted that all marches be made by night and that troops be screened from aerial observation by day.

The trip northward was broken by a three-day stopover at Montigny, characterized by several happenings. One day officers were taken to Vaucouleurs to witness a new method for penetrating enemy barbed wire resistence and the following day the 6th Engineers sent a demonstrating detail to Montigny to explain the new tactics to the entire regiment. The D. S. C. decoration was awarded at this time to Lieut.-Col. Adams and Major Wooldridge at a ceremony held at 3rd Division headquarters at Vaucouleurs. Major Rowe was still in a hospital and unable to be present. Here, too, Major Keeley was notified of his appointment to the staff school and Major Wooldridge took command of the First Battalion.

On the night of Sept. 9 a terrain problem for all officers and for representative sergeants and privates from each platoon was held, the success of which was doubtful. The details assembled at Montigny, marched four kilometres eastward, and then eight kilometres westward, retracing their steps to Montigny and winding up for the night in a field and thin woods. It began to rain, it continued to rain, it seemed that the rain would never stop. Wet, wringing wet, with no shelter, no buildings, and nothing to do except wait for the simulated „relief", the terrain exercise detail at daylight advanced in the attack for an hour and then the problem was called off and all sent back to their tents at Montigny to dry off and to cuss. The latter is a true soldier's privilege and little harm is ever done by it.

The series of three night marches which were to bring the Thirty-eighth to within supporting distance of the front line between St. Mihiel and Pont-a-Mousson began after dark Sept. 10. Unusual precautions were observed, such as a strict prohibition against troops smoking on the march or leaving the woods during daylight hours. Rains — those annual September French rains — began this first night and

continued as the regimental column wound through the crooked streets of Vaucouleurs and into a woods just south of Void. Here the regiment remained until another fall of darkness. Again followed a night of rain which by this time transformed ordinarily hard roads into ribbons of mud. The second night's journey was comparatively short and ended in a deep gully, up the sides of which the companies scrambled to find room between trees and bushes to pitch the shelter tents. Before the cooks and wagoners could turn in for sleep they must first cut branches and sprigs of leaves and effectively camouflage the kitchens and vehicles against overhead observation.

The night of Sept. 12—13, when the artillery bombardment began that initiated the first big attack of the American Army in reducing to a straight line the St. Mihiel salient, furnished the Thirty-eighth with experiences long to be remembered. On that evening the unbelievable actually happened. Officers and men, veritably dead tired, went fast to sleep on the road while standing upright. That is no exaggeration. The nights on the road and the days in rainy, wet camps with little opportunity for sleep had fagged every man. On the night of Sept. 12 the privilege of using the roads leading toward the front was at a premium. There was no such thing as right-of-way. A battery commander would get part of his guns and caissons around a bend in the road, but if he turned his back for an instant an engineer train would promptly wind out of a crossroad and at the next turn perhaps an infantry wagon train squeezed in a few carts and kitchens. Alongide this stream of vehicular traffic Colonel Adams and other regimental commanders en route north must lead their troops.

Roads in this district of France had been built by American engineers only a few months before and they were as yet not hardened and ballasted for such traffic. They crumbled away in places, and under these incessant rains of September they became quagmires. The Thirty-eighth was on such a road after midnight on the morning of Sept. 13

when the opening guns announced that the great drive had been launched. The regiment would progress a couple of hundred yards and then wait while traffic at the crossroads ahead was being straightened out.

Men with packs and rifles and reserve rations, and ammunition and whatever a doughboy chooses to carry as personal property can stand so much, but no more. And they couldn't stand these frequent halts. There was no place to lie down, not even a spot dry enough to sit down. And so they stood, in the road, with mud oozing around their shoe-tops. Many an officer and enlisted man began to sway and was caught only by a wide awake soldier next to him. Some had no guiding hand near enough and a rattle of a falling rifle and equipment would announce to that platoon that some one had fallen asleep as he stood and toppled over for a splash in the mud. Some few mounted officers and men waked up only as they were somersaulting past their horse's neck.

The Thirty-eighth's participation in the St. Mihiel Drive proved to be one of purely immediate support, and not a casualty is recorded.

As the regiment reached its assigned woods before daylight on Sept. 13 the artillery which was preparing the infantry for its advance was not too far off. We were now in close support. About 11 o'clock the same morning the regiment was ordered to march toward Beaumont, which had been a border town a few hours earlier On this three-hour hike the success of the first big American operation was found to be assured. Prisoners were already being guarded toward the rear by the thousand. In an open field near Beaumont the Thirty-eighth pitched camp and built fires for the kitchens although the night before this ground was less than a kilometre from the front line.

About dark the order came that seemed to promise a fight for the regiment. The 1st Division called for reserves and the Thirty-eighth was detached temporarily from the 3rd Division. It was nearly midnight when the start was made.

Roads could not be used because they were already overcrowded with artillery and supply wagons. So over fields, through woods, across bands of barbed wire the Thirty-eighth hiked along, passing through the battle scarred Seicheprey, where the first American raid on enemy lines had been staged the previous Winter, and through the towns of Maizerais, Essey and Pannes and ending the march at the town of Nonsard. This village lies in the very center of what had on Sept. 12 been the St. Mihiel salient. The American drive had been hardly more than a practice march and by the morning of the 14th this town was safely wrested from the Germans. The regiment had columned through a famous and interesting part of a typical trench warfare district of the Western Front and now was in a town where badly frightened Boche had willingly surrendered a bare 18 hours earlier.

After resting a few hours on the outskirts of Nonsard, where shallow intrenchments and fox-holes were dug as a precautionary measure, the Thirty-eighth received another order that pointed to a certain meeting with the Huns. It was to push through the Bois de Nonsard and attack a pocket of Germans—estimated at 30,000—who were reported to be launching a counter-attack. The regiment started on its mission.

That was the nearest, however, that it actually came to meeting in combat the enemy during the St. Mihiel battle. Scarcely had the tail of the column left Nonsard when the order came that the Thirty-eighth was not needed. Colonel Adams then counter-marched his regiment, returned it to Nonsard to bivouac in the same field for the night, and to return early on the morning of Sept. 15 to Beaumont.

It had been too easy, this St. Mihiel Drive, and the „Rock of the Marne regiment" came through it without firing a shot. St. Mihiel will always be remembered by the Thirty-eighth, however, in terms of the rainiest of rainy nights, the muddiest of muddy roads, and the most badly jammed of all the traffic-crowded highways of France.

The regimental wagon train rejoined the organization in the afternoon of the 14th, having had to sandwich in the train, one vehicle at a time, along the single road leading nortward from Beaumont and Seicheprey while other trains used the same tricks. This narrow road, inadequate at best, had been completely destroyed in places and many waits were necessary as engineer and pioneer troops worked to restore bridges and fill in shell holes.

Just after daylight on Sept. 15 the regiment retraced its path over fields and through woods to return to Beaumont Some desultory shelling from German batteries, now awakened after the shock of the American attack, followed the regiment between Nonsard and Pannes, but no damage was done.

Back in Beaumont men of the Thirty-eighth pitched shelter tents, scrubbed up, dried out wet clothing and, more than anything else, rested. The Y. M. C. A., ever ready to provide pleasure when possible, had established a flourishing, well-stocked canteen here and distributed newspapers and sold chocolate and cigarettes. The day was well spent, but after dark another march order sent the regiment a few kilometres further south to the Bois de Lagny, where camp was again pitched and the interrupted sleep was resumed.

CHAPTER XXIII.

HEADED TOWARD THE ARGONNE.

What followed, what movements were subsequently made by the Thirty-eighth Infantry, marches, reliefs, battles, actions, and engagements, form its share in the great American drive between the Argonne Forest and the Meuse River in September, October and November of 1918.

If the St. Mihiel Drive had been big, this coming operation was to be titanic in size. In the language of Lieut.-Col. F. L. Turner, writing a memorandum from the 3rd Division P. C. to brigade commanders:- „This is the largest battle in the history of the world, exending from Metz to the North Sea." And so it resulted, so large, in fact, that it not only hastened but probably brought about the close of the war. But little did the Thirty-eighth Infantry contemplate the work ahead of it as it moved from Beaumont on Sept. 15 to the southwest part of the Bois de Laguy.

In the annals of American military history the name Thirty-eighth Infantry will ever be associated with the River Marne. The two are, in a military sense, synonymous. This regiment was figuratively — almost actually — the Rock of the Marne on July 15, 1918, and when the names Mezy, Moulins or Surmelin are read in print one thinks of the Thirty-eighth.

And on the other hand, when one recalls the work of the American Army along the Meuse River it isn't to bring to mind instantly a vivid picture of men of the Thirty-eighth fighting like demons, even though they did so. The reason lies in the fact that in the great Argonne-Meuse offensive everything was massive, gigantic, yes, titanic. So much was at stake, so many thousands of units and so many hundreds of regiments were engaged that the Thirty-eighth formed only a part, although a mighty big part. On the Marne the Thirty-eighth was very nearly the whole show. Along the Meuse the regiment played a leading role in a celebrated and high-priced cast of military characters.

The two battles were quite different. That last drive in September, during October, and which closed in November with the signing of the armistice, ended hostilities. But The Marne turned the war. At the mouth of the Surmelin the Thirty-eighth made its reputation in defending against overwhelming odds one of the most sensitive and important points in the allied defenses of Paris and central France. Near the Meuse, in October, this regiment improved and added to its reputation in a hammer-and-tongs operation against hitherto impregnable enemy field fortifications.

The casualty list is usually a measure of a unit's participation in battle. The figures for the Marne fighting show a total of 1,142 officers and men killed ,wounded or missing. Those for the month spent near the Meuse are actually in excess. They total 1,381, or 239 more. The Marne fighting was to a finish, as is evidenced by the figures which show more officers and enlisted men killed than along the Meuse. Thirteen commissioned and 228 of other ranks were killed. The October fighting, on the contrary, shows an excess in wounded over the July battling in both officers and men. Eight officers and 205 enlisted men lost their lives, and 49 officers and 999 men were wounded.

The actions near the Meuse were in the attack; on the Marne they were first holding and defending, then following up in pursuit in Marshal Foch's successive offensive, begun

near Chateau Thierry but which did not end until Nov. 11 when the American Army laid its sight-leaves, locked its pieces, and drew a deep breath in relaxation in front of the very gates of Sedan.

The first movement in the Thirty-eighth away from St. Mihiel and toward the Verdun region en route for the Argonne-Meuse district began on the evening of Sept. 16. The wagon train then parted from the troops and began its four-day hike through the Commercy area. On the night of the 18th, the troops, and with them the business end of all company kitchens which had remained behind, embussed in camions and arrived before daylight in the assigned bivouac in the Bois de Cote, near Ippecourt. The wagon train joined the following day and Colonel Adams established a camp for the regiment that was to keep it nestled away out of sight of prowling Hun 'planes for several days.

Here plans for the „biggest thing in the world's history" began to be unfolded. Every phase of the coming drive was dovetailed into other phases on a tremendous scale. In moving the thousands of troops from St. Mihiel and from other sectors toward the Argonne and toward the Meuse General Pershing's plans were complete and included among other things the absolute secrecy of troop travel. Hidden in the large, thickly-grown forests, from Dombasle as far south as Souilly, were hundreds of thousands of troops yet only normal traffic could be seen by day on the roads.

During its wait in the Bois de Cote the Thirty-eighth actually carried on with a drill schedule and additional training in puncturing and passing through wire entanglements. Some more changes of officers occured here. Lieut.-Col. Allan R. Williams, an officer of considerable regular army experience, joined as second in command Major Rowe also returned and became operations officer for the fighting that followed. Here, too, Lieut.-Col. Adams appeared one day with a pair of silver eagles on his broad shoulders as a mark of the deserved — but somewhat

delayed — promotion that resulted from his work in the Second Battle of the Marne.

A departure from former methods of protecting company and regimental records was put into effect during this stay in the woods. In the Marne fighting Co. I had completely lost all documents, service records and other important company papers, and Cos. F and G had had many lost when they had to be abandoned at Moulins. Colonel Adams now established a rear regimental headquarters in a former French barrack building and left behind in command Captains Rogers and Freeman, the adjutant and personnel adjutant, respectively, and all company first sergeants and company clerks. The band, which under a new order was to remain always as musicians and not engage in work as litter bearers, also remained behind to practice triumphant marches and quick-steps which the regiment could enjoy when it came off front line duty.

Induded now in the 3rd American Corps, the Thirty-eighth on the evening of Sept. 24 began its forward march and, as corps reserve on the following morning at 9 o'clock when the American attack was launched, took position in the Bois de Sivry. The artillery, playing its tattoo on enemy lines and positions, provided enough noise to give realization that we were not too many miles from the battlefront. The same afternoon the regiment moved several kilometres closer, to the Foret de Hesse, that wilderness of truncated tree stumps which bear mute witness to the four years of savage fighting around Verdun. Here was the western edge of the German enveloping attack which endeavored to close in on the fortresses of the worn out city during 1916. Here was hallowed ground where some of France's bravest soldiers had held out victoriously. But such scenes there! Nine trees out of every ten are cut short a few feet from the ground where direct hits from German artillery struck, and what shrubbery and vegetation remained was only in withered form showing the deadly effects of the lethal gases.

Here, just in back of Avocourt and Esnes, the heights of Montfaucon, still held by the enemy, were in plain view. Two days were spent in the Foret de Hesse. The regiment was summoned in the middle of the rainy night of Sept. 27 to follow up the attack a little closer. The Thirty-eighth was now transferred to the 5th American Corps and, still in reserve, reached the Bois de Montfaucon, one kilometre south of that destroyed town, before daylight. Roads were blocked for hours while some of the routes were held open to allow ambulances to rush to the evacuation hospitals in the rear with the wounded. And it was another day before the regimental train could rejoin the troops. In covering the three kilometres from the Foret de Hesse to the Bois de Montfaucon the train was on the road more than 24 hours. Its route was over one end of the famous Dead Man's Hill, where thousands of Boche and poilu dead lay side by side as a result of the terrible slaughter of men in the 1916 fighting near Verdun.

In its new position in the Bois de Montfaucon the Thirty-eighth came under intermittent artillery fire. German batteries, guided by enemy planes which seemed to be able to push through the allied squadrons, directed shelling on all wooded shelters that were likely to conceal troops. For the next two or three nights occasional bombardments were directed on these woods and although casualties occured in the 30th Infantry bivouac, adjoing the Thirty-eighth's, this regiment escaped them.

Newspapers and magazines poke much fun at soldiers' experiences with that fat, tricky, underhanded enemy of fighting men — the cootie — and folks back home in the States laugh at the idea of them. But they are wrong, all wrong. Right here in the Bois de Montfaucon the Thirty-eighth came to know at first hand and to hate that immense German auxiliary army of cooties which stay behind in dugouts when the Huns retreat, as they were wont to do last Fall, and attack with superior numbers the advancing American doughboy. Uncle Sam's foot soldiers fight long

and often and rest only on rare occasions. And so it was in the Thirty-eighth. For a month the regiment had been away from billets, sleeping always on wet, hard, dirty ground and much of the time on ground recently recaptured from the Germans. Now they were as dirty as the average men of arms. That meant one thing. German cooties fell in love readily with the hardened bronze-faced American, but carried their affection altogether too far.

The regiment „read their shirts“ at regular hours and were fairly successful. But no one ever reduced his wealth of cooties that way. Long finger-nails must be grown and used. And so they were.

It is strange, yet true, that not until the Thirty-eighth reached the Argonne country was it troubled with cooties. Along the Marne they were unknown. At the Vesle when one was taken prisoner from the inside seam of an undershirt it was hailed as a rare curiosity and exhibited to the entire company. But by the first of October there was only one man with the regiment who was not scratching. He was Lieutenant Chavance, the French liaison officer. In his four years of fighting he had learned one all-important lesson. NEVER WEAR WOOLEN UNDERCLOTHING, was his motto. But while he remained immune within his covering of cotton lingerie, men of the Thirty-eighth were obliged to suffer in their issue garments.

Even if bullets, shells and gas were taken out of warfare and only cooties were left, it would still have real horrors.

CHAPTER XXIV.

THIRTY-EIGHTH BREAKS KRIEMHILDE STELLUNG.

The regiment ended its work in reserve and took over its first support position on the morning of Oct. 2 when Colonel Adams led it out of the Bois de Montfaucon, around the west side of the ruined town, and northward to the edge of the Bois de Beuge. Here, on the reverse slopes of Hills 254 and 272, less than two kilometres from the front line where the 5th Brigade was pushing ahead, the Thirty-eighth naturally began to come in for its share of the Argonne-Meuse drive. Enemy artillery bombardment became incessant.

There was a new adventure here also. Although not entirely unaccustomed to attacks from the air, the Thirty-eighth here took part in its first organized battle AGAINST hostile planes. Swarming over the individual fox-holes which the men dug for protection against the 77's, flight after flight of German aircraft appeared within two hours after we occupied our new position. They poured down intense machine gun fire on the exposed regiment and, what was worse, initiated a new terror of war. This was dropping hand grenades on the troops. It continued for a while, but only long enough for Colonel Adams to give orders for collective rifle fire. He was willing to try

anything once and this bit of strategy proved highly successful.

With upwards of 3,000 Springfield rifles firing there was certain to be results. History will perhaps not confirm that the Thirty-eighth riflemen actually brought down three Boche planes on the afternoon of Oct. 2, 1918, but the facts do remain that no less than three Huns, with wings, wires, and gasoline tanks pierced and damaged, turned tail and tried to reach their own lines. At least one was unable to return, for it ACTUALLY CAME TO EARTH ON HILL 256. Captain Murray, the intelligence officer, hustled over to this hilltop, took charge of the prisoners who were being held by some artillerymen, and sent them to the rear under guard as captives taken by the Thirty-eighth Infantry, but undoubtedly some American air squadron by nightfall had recorded „one enemy plane downed".

By Oct. 5 enemy artillery fire had become so severe, during the period when the 5th Brigade could advance no further because of its losses and fatigue, that Colonel Adams saw the futility of holding more than one battalion in this support position behind the Bois de Beuge. Accordingly, he left the Second Battalion there and brought the rest of the regiment to a more protecting position in a ravine west of Montfaucon.

The long expected order to take a turn on the front line came on the afternoon of Oct. 7, and by the next daybreak the Third Battalion, under Major Lough, was huddling in small scooped-out holes on the southern slope of Hill 253 with Boche machine gun crews on the crest of this hill, protected by several short lengths of two-foot-deep trenches. No Man's Land here was hardly more than 100 yards wide. Back of Hill 241 and along the Cierges-Nantillois road, Major Wooldridge located his First Battalion. The Second Battalion, under Major Parkinson, still occupied the positions south of the Bois de Beuge, now as brigade reserve.

At daylight a thorough reconnaisance of these positions taken over from the 7th Infantry became necessary. The strongest kind of a patrol was decided upon and Colonel Adams ordered Co. H under Captain J. B. Austin to come up from the Second Battalion for this job, so as to save the strength of the front line and support battalions for the coming attack.

Co. K, under Captain Moss, supported Captain Austin on the right, and Captain Thebaud, with Co. I, supported the patrol on the left. It became more than a reconnaisance patrol. It resulted in a minor attack.

An advance of scarcely 75 yards brought Co. H within grenade throwing distance of the entrenched Huns on the hilltop, and as for machine guns, the enemy had scores of them and used them. Captain Austin was wounded and died a few days later in a hospital. Lieutenants D. E. Edwards of Co. H. and A. B. Hays of Co. K were severely wounded and the casualties among enlisted men of the attacking companies were serious. But the desired information was obtained, the enemy lines located, and Cos. H and K returned to their positions under intense machine gun fire. Co. I had not been needed.

In connection with the reconnaisance one of the bravest acts in the history of all the regiment's deeds of courage and valor was done by Private Leroy R. Farst of Co. K. Lieutenant Hays, his platoon leader, lay wounded on the ground fifty yards from the German lines in the midst of a veritable hail of machine gun bullets. Private Farst, fearing the officer would be wounded again, voluntarily crawled the 200 yards from his own hole, through a curtain of bullets from a dozen Boche guns which were trained on him, and was in the act of carrying Lieutenant Hays to safety when a bullet through the head killed him. The officer was later evacuated to dressing station by other men. Farst has been recommended for the Congressional Medal of Honor.

That same afternoon, Oct. 8, divisional Field Orders No. 49 were issued. „Third Division will continue its

attack . . . .", they read. „Sixth Brigade is designated as the assaulting brigade . . . . Jumping-off line — left regiment, Rau de Moussin . . . ."

The Thirty-eighth was the left regiment and discovered that this last paragraph in the field orders was in error by about half a kilometre. Between the actual positions of the advanced Third Battalion and the ravine were too many Boche machine guns and snipers to pass unnoticed.

The right regiment was the 30th Infantry and on the left of the Thirty-eighth was a unit of the 32nd Division, also to attack. The mission of the Thirty-eighth was „to capture the portion of the Trenchee de la Mamelle within the 3rd Division sector."

Even the too long casualty list does not tell the story, nor does it do the day of Oct. 9, 1918 justice. Veterans of the Thirty-eighth had long since known all forms of warfare, but he who hadn't dodged his millionth machine gun bullet or who hadn't as yet killed his first German, certainly experienced those sensations on that particular morning.

It had been necessary to make some slight changes in position before the attack. Co. K was on the left front and Co. I on the right, supported respectively by Cos M and L. The First Battalion was in immediate support for the attack, with Co. A. under Captain Edward Harrah, on the left front, and Co. B, under Captain W. E. Morrison, on the right. Behind them were Cos. C and D, under Captains H. F. Combs and S. E. Leverett.

The hour for the Thirty-eighth's assault was „H plus 1", or 9.30 a. m. Up the grassy slope of Hill 253 started the Third Battalion.

Boche gunners literally crowded the crest. And why? Behind them was the Mamelle Trench, a part of the Kriemhilde Stellung of the invincible Hindenburg Line, and behind that was what the whole German army wanted to retain the most. Once the Hindenburg Line was broken, the Germans could expect nothing better than to retire from the western side of the Meuse River, all the way to Sedan.

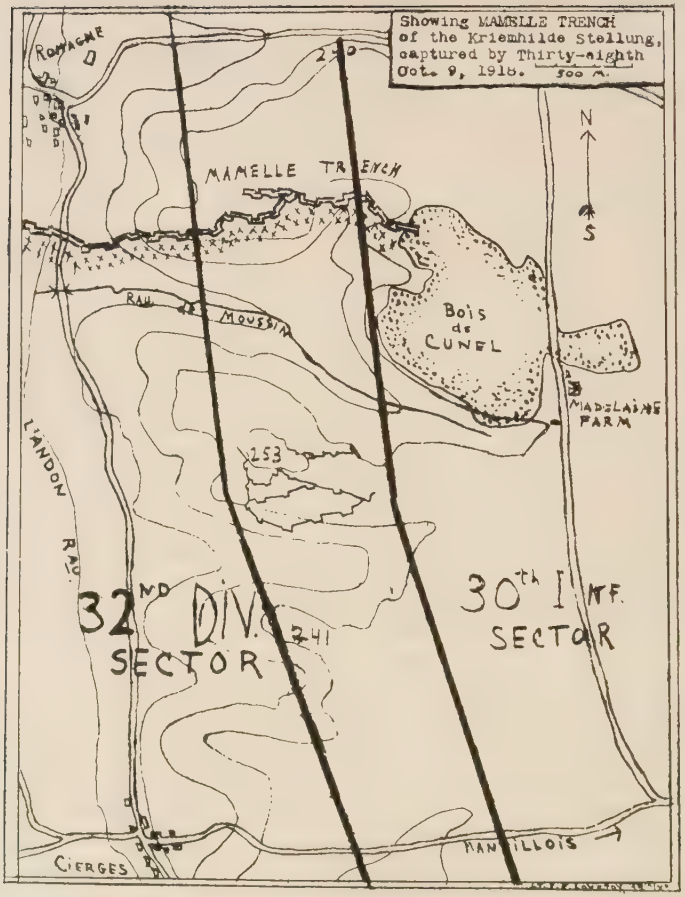
And recall what that meant! British and Belgians were crowding dangerously far. Australians and the 27th and 30th American divisions were launching daily attacks against another part of the Hindenburg Line in northern France around Bellicourt. French in the middle were pushing northeasterly too fast. And here on the right of the long battlefront, in the biggest offensive in military history, were Americans day after day gaining a kilometre, or five or fifteen of precious ground which the Huns had held for four years and which formed barriers and defenses to their lines of communication from Metz. Supplies to the German field armies in northern France were transported mainly along the Metz-Montmedy-Mezieres line of railroads. If allied advances were made and artillery moved into position to shell regularly these systems of communications it would be all over except the weeping. The end of the war would be measured in terms of hours.

And that's exactly what happened. American artillery got into range of these railroads, American infantry pressed on, crossed the Meuse, and advanced on Sedan. The wider spout of the double-neck bottle of Germans was now closed. The armistice followed

Here on the misty, foggy morning of Oct. 9 the Americans were advancing. The Boche knew that too well. And here they found their backs close up on the Hindenburg Line, at a point in it they must hold.

No American on that memorable day in the Thirty-eighth's history will deny those Boche of their attempts. And the reason they didn't hold was not because they didn't try hard enough. It was because the Thirty-eighth had just enough spirit and morale to overcome its fatigue, to push on, to step over its own dead and wounded, and to reach the objective.

The 30th Infantry began its advance on the right a full hour before Major Lough signalled for his Third Battalion to forge ahead. And in that interval a light artillery bombardment — it was not a barrage — was laid



Path of advance of Thirty-eighth Infantry is included between the black lines. Trenches on Hill 253 and the Mamelle Trench were captured en route to the objective.

down in front of the Thirty-eighth, and a smoke screen was furnished by Co. D, 1st Gas Regiment.

From their fox-holes on the southern slope of Hill 253, the Third Battalion companies began the ascent. Once on top Co. K met an unforeseen situation. The crest was not like other hills. It was quite flat, cut by shallow trenches plentifully sprinkled with Hun machine gunners, but strangest of all the crest was triangular, with its base toward the west and the apex toward Cunel Woods on the east.

Captain R. G. Moss of this forward company solved the tactical problem at a time when machine gun bullets helped one to think fast. He threw his combat squads over the narrowest ridge so that while Co. M, under Captain R. G. Woodside, was following up the immediate assault, those groups of Co. K in the extreme advance could shoot into the backs of the withdrawing Germans. It worked, and a half hour later Co. K was in the Rau de Moussin, all hands facing frontward for more work.

The knotty, dangerous Hill 253 had been cleared. Co. M veered a little to the left to cover a part of the 32nd Division sector, meeting Boche machine gun fire and silencing much of it. On the right Co. I was entirely without officers. Captain D. E. Thebaud and Lieutenants R. W. Doye and O. R. Hilburn had been wounded and Lieutenant C. M. Collord killed. This company was now taken over by a quick-witted corporal (who has not since been identified) and he crawled through machine gun fire to report to Major Lough for instructions.

Here in the Moussin ravine the attackers met a concrete gun emplacement with just enough logs on the sides and top to give it the look of an old Indian blockhouse. Lieutenant David L. Wood, Jr., with the leading platoon of Co. K, flanked this from the west until a score of erstwhile busy Boche left their white-hot machine guns and filed out with the customary „kamerade" salutations.

All was well on the front, but a repetition of the Marne fighting was resulting on the flanks. It could be seen that

on the left the 32nd Division was not advancing as rapidly as the Thirty-eighth, and Captain Woodside was obliged to steer his course time and again to the west to put out dangerous and obstructing machine guns. Moreover, the 30th Infantry on the right flank was having its troubles, as was evidenced as no other conclusion of facts can affirm by the numerous groups of steady machine gun fire which poured out of Cunel Woods, a small forest directly in the 30th Infantry's path of advance. Co. I, now commanded by a corporal and depleted by many casualties, was in a bad way. It could not be expected, under the circumstances, to widen its front and add to its mission. A little later Co. L, under Captain Thomas F. Bresnahan, was able to cover a portion of this gap on the right.

Rising from the Moussin brook was the hill from the top of which the Mamelle Trench had a commanding view. It was a gentle sloping hill, graded evenly, and affording no protecting dead space at its foot. Cos. K and M advanced at wide intervals, losing men each minute as the machine gun fire from both flanks crossed against the assaulting squads. Reaching the wire in front of the trench several gaps were cut and the men advanced through these and through some natural openings.

Here it was that fighting became closer. Soldiers knew the worth of their bayonets and used them. Automatic pistols were emptied of their seven bullets as fast as their owners could jam in a new magazine. Germans were standing by their machine guns at corners and infilading posts in the system of trenches, and others were coming out of Cunel Woods to occupy cover behind a hummock here or a depression there, all the while pouring in a frontal and flanking fire without stop. At one of these „dead man corners" of Boche machine guns, Lieutenant O. D. Hooper of Co. M, although severely wounded, crawled ahead to pistol range and killed four members of a crew that was operating a particularly harassing machine gun.

Prisoners were of course taken in the Mamelle Trench, but probably more Germans were killed in the bloody, hand-to-hand fighting here than were made captives. The objective lay on the commanding hilltop about three hundred yards from the trench, and although this Kriemhilde Stellung had now been pierced and was in our hands, the remaining advance was one of the hardest tasks of the day's fighting

Worst of all was the direct fire of Hun artillery. As the combat groups of Cos. K and M pushed ahead, here and there manoeuvring to surround and take an enemy machine gun, light artillery fire combed their path with its destruction. Stationed there in front of the Thirty-eighth, not more than two kilometres away on the next hill, one could see a battery of 88's with their gun crews in plain view working the pieces. There were no intervals in this fire either. It came incessantly, with a great majority of the shells of the shrapnel variety, which burst close to the ground — certainly not more than ten feet high. A more destroying fire than this doesn't exist.

By ten minutes after noon the objective on the hill commanding the town of Romagne-sous-Montfaucon, and to the east of that place, had been reached. Closely supporting Co. M was Captain Edward Harrah with Co. A. His had not been a journey of peaceful advancing. Machine guns popped out from the 32nd Division sector on the left, or from the house tops in Romagne, and by the time the objective was taken some of his men were close on the heels of the two assaulting companies and were consequently subjected to the direct artillery fire.

On the objective, even, there was not a minute for resting. Wounded dotted the hill top and those who were able dragged themselves into fox-holes to escape the streams of machine gun lead. Now for the first time there was opportunity to evacuate the scores of seriously wounded and it was necessary to take men out of the line for this purpose. Those who remained straightened out the front, occupied Mamelle Trench for what protection it offered, and pushed

out combat groups and petit posts well to the north. Enemy fire never stopped. A half platoon from Co. K, under Sergeant Carl G. Leckstrom, entered Romagne, although out of the 3rd Division sector, to put a stop to the flanking machine gun fire. This group returned with one German officer and a score of other prisoners.

Colonel Adams had directed the assault close at hand, first from a position immediately behind Cierges and later he came up to establish a P. C. on the hillside only two hundred yards behind Mamelle Trench. Here he and his staff were constantly under machine gun and light artillery fire.

Although the attack on the Kriemhilde Stellung had been from the start a 3rd Battalion affair, the nature of the advance opened up fighting opportunities for the 1st Battalion and it too had many casualties in officers and men. This unit started out as immediate support, but gradually closed in and by the time the objective was reached some of its groups were only a few yards behind the advance companies. Lieut.-Col. Allan R. Williams had followed the advance with the 1st Battalion until killed by a bullet during the morning. Marked by his light-colored officer's trench coat, and while in the act of reading from his map case, a German rifle or machine gun sniper took his life. Major Wooldridge, commanding the 1st Battalion, was also severely wounded in the advance and the command reverted to Captain H. F. Combs.

Indeed, the casualties among officers were unusually severe. Major Lough was wounded in the morning, but remained with his battalion until late in the afternoon before turning it over to Captain Moss. Three days later only two officers of this Third Battalion who had participated in the assault, remained on duty and by this time the Second Battalion had been subjected to the front line fire and its commanding officer, Major P. D. Parkinson, was also wounded. On the night of Oct. 10, twelve newly

commissioned second lieutenants joined the Thirty-eighth on the front, but by the next noon only three remained on duty, the others having been killed or wounded.

The devotion to duty of Sergeant Robert Tillotson, Medical Department, must not pass unmentioned. He was attached to the First Battalion dressing station when ordered to go up to the front and ascertain the number of wounded not yet evacuated. Arriving at Mamelle Trench he found scores of wounded, saw need for his experience there, and sent back the report by a private while he stayed under fire for 48 hours dressing wounded. He returned to his aid station only when he ran short of gauze and bandages.

CHAPTER XXV.

FIRST BATTALION CAPTURES HILL 299.

Just before dark, following the assault on the Kriemhilde Stellung, the Second Battalion came up to take over the front line and allow the exhausted and decimated First and Third Battalions to retire a couple of hundreds yards and reorganize. In fact, each of these latter units became nothing more than a good sized company. Major Parkinson was obliged to bring his Second Battalion over the crests of Hills 241 and 253 under an intense enemy barrage of artillery and machine guns.

If advances under fire can be termed pretty, then that movement of the Second Battalion was indeed pretty. With straight ranks of riflemen and lines of combat groups, never a bulge and never a gap, with the companies in place as if during a drill, the battalion ploughed through the fire to reach the objective Shell fire dropped many, but their places were taken automatically by others and the formation, which was the safest possible under the conditions, remained perfect in its construction.

On the morning of Oct. 10 the Second Battalion was ordered to attack, in an endeavor to establish a position further north and thereby completely command the Romagne-Cunel road. During the late afternoon of the 9th, the direct fire from enemy artillery had made it necessary to pull the main Thirty-eighth forces back to Mamelle Trench, leaving

only observation groups and patrols out ahead on the objective.

It was in the Oct. 10 attack that Major Parkinson was wounded. His battalion pushed on ahead, but the flanking fire from in front of the 32nd Division sector and in front of Cunel Woods absolutely prevented any considerable ground being gained, and again the main strength was ordered back to Mamelle Trench.

On Oct. 11 the Second Battalion made a second attack. Assisted by two platoons from Co. B of the 9th Machine Gun battalion, under Lieutenants F. M. Brady and C. E. Snyder, the battalion pushed ahead through the machine gun and artillery fire. Captain F. A. Pattillo, with Co. E, and Captain Thomas C. Reid, with Co. F, reached the heights overlooking the Romagne-Cunel road and established combat positions there temporarily. But the flanks were still exposed and to remain there, under enemy fire and with the chances favoring a German counter-attack, would have been bad tactics and the battalion was again returned to Mamelle Trench while patrols and small groups remained on the newly captured ground.

For two days more this line was held and the daily ration included incessant bombardment from light and heavy guns, sniping and machine gun fire from the flanks. But the Hindenburg Line had been shattered and the objective reached. On Oct. 14 the 5th Division passed through to resume the advance, and on the following night the Second and Third Battalions of the Thirty-eighth moved a few hundred yards to the east to dig temporary positions in the ravines south of La Ville aux Bois farm and near Madelaine farm. An intense and concentrated bombardment of mustard and phosgene gas during this change of position seemed almost to indicate the Boche had had certain information of the movement of troops. Indeed, so heavy was this gassing of the whole area traversed that the First Battalion and the machine gun company remained in the Mamelle Trench for another day and night.

On Oct. 17 the regiment was ordered into reserve and moved back of Nantillois for a rest which proved to be very brief. On the following night it was necessary to send the Third Battalion into the southern extremity of the Bois de Foret, two kilometres due east of Madelaine farm, to relieve a 4th Division unit. Actually a front line position, it had none of the accompanying fighting, however, because of the advances then being made north of Cunel in the Bois des Rappes by the 5th Brigade Occasional shelling were the only discomforts. The Second Battalion took over a similar position in the northwest part of the Bois de Septsarges, southwest of the town of Brieulles.

But on the night of Oct. 21 six companies of this regiment found without question that the long deferred relief was only a myth. The entire First Battalion, by this time reduced to six officers and less than 250 men, the machine gun company and Co. G were sent to join the 5th Brigade north of Cunel. This brigade, just as badly depleted in numbers, had on Oct. 20 taken the nasty, wooded ravine of Claire Chenes. The next mission was to clear Hill 299.

The importance of this height is appreciated only after studying and knowing the terrain. The Bois des Rappes to its left still contained some few enemy groups. The northern part of the Bois de Foret had still more Hun machine guns although it was actually south of Hill 299. But from this prominence a clear view, clear approach and clear superiority existed over all the enemy country to the north, including the villages of Clery-le-Grand, Clery-le-Petit, and Brieulles, as well as the Meuse River valley for a distance of several kilometres.

The H-hour for the attack on Hill 299 was high noon and the D-day was Oct. 22. From the jumping-off line in the vicinity of Claire Chenes the direction was northeasterly. General Frederick Sladen, commanding the 5th Brigade, assigned this job to the six attached companies of the Thirty-eighth and the 7th Infantry.

It was a job for no weaklings, no man who thought he was too tired, no officer who wanted to get to the rear. Not a single member of the Thirty-eighth had slept on anything except wet rainy ground for more than a month, and with no clean or dry clothes. Not a man had averaged more than one meal a day for nearly three weeks.

Fighting on Oct. 22 was no exception to any other day of that long succession of American attacks, unless it was that enemy machine guns were even more numerous. Colonel W. J. Morrow of the 7th Infantry commanded the attack and won the D. S. C. On the way to the crest of Hill 299 Captain Combs, commanding the First Battalion, was killed and Captain Harrah took over the unit. His leadership was exceptional and within two hours the summit had been reached and captured Lieutenant H. W. Keith of the Thirty-eighth was holding the top and strengthening his positions.

As a matter of fact, the news of the Thirty-eighth's success was fairly unbelievable and Colonel Morrow came himself to inspect the situation. Instructions to take this hill appear first in 3rd Division orders in Major General B. B. Buck's memorandum 344, annex „A" to paragraph 3 of Field Orders 57, issued on Oct. 14. The task was accomplished on Oct. 22, after eight daily attempts.

Before darkness men of the Thirty-eighth were safely dug in and capable of retaining the captured ground against counter-attack. An hour later, when outposts and patrols pushed on toward Clery-le-Grand and actually came into contact with the enemy, there was no disputing the ownership of Hill 299. The Thirty-eighth held it safely.

At the close of this operation Captain Harrah was the sole remaining officer in the First Battalion and under him were only 96 men from all four companies. Captain Rich remained as the only officer in Co. G and one non-com and 14 privates represented the total strength of the machine gun company.

On the following day Cos. I and K of the Third Battalion were also detached and assigned to the 5th Brigade

to hold and establish strong points and combat groups in the Bois de Foret. Patrols were active that same night, one from Co. K under Sergeant S. R. Phillips actually reconnoitering Brieulles-sur-Meuse, but there was no combat with the enemy. The taking of Hill 299 virtually ended the long succession of engagements of the Thirty-eighth Infantry.

It is nothing short of miraculous when one pictures that month of October spent between the Argonne and the Meuse. Since early in September the regiment had been on the move, first to St. Mihiel and then toward the Meuse River. There had been no rest, no clean clothes, meals only once a day, and all the time savage fighting. In battles when officers and non-commissioned leaders are wounded and killed it is often that men straggle, get lost, and wind up with another organization. During the great American offensive of the Argonne-Meuse this condition existed in several divisions. It is no secret to admit that there were stragglers. But in the Thirty-eighth the number was infinitessimal. Late in October, when relief did not come, the appeal was made to regular army regiments, including the Thirty-eighth. to hold on, to carry on, to fight on for the reputation of the regular establishment. And that was the spirit that obtained. The same old morale existed and the same old regimental pride that had proved such a factor in the Marne fighting. Together with that, this devotion to duty, this hanging on by tooth and nail although almost utterly exhausted, nerve-wrecked, and weakened, this sense of devotion to the traditions of the United States regular forces was an immense asset that must certainly be taken into consideration.

On the evening of Oct. 26 the first move toward an actual relief was made. All companies of the three battalions then holding front line positions moved back from Cunel and from Madelaine farm to a cup-shaped valley between Montfaucon and Septsarges. Here the official designation was „corps reserve" and daily rumors indicated still more

front line duty. But the regiment had served every purpose expected, and probably more too, and was never again needed in action.

Nightly bombing excursions by Hun squadrons did not permit anyone, however, to forget there was a war. On two nights huge bombs actually landed within the camp site and some slight damage was done to wagons and property, but there were no casualties.

Relief was assured, however, but it did not come until the night of Oct. 31 and by daylight on Nov. 1 the Thirty-eighth had hiked some 15 kilometres and was sleeping off exhaustion in the Foret de Hesse. No relief by any organization of fighters was so welcome as that. The tour of front line duty, now over, had not only been gruelling; it had been almost unbearable toward the end. Men were nervous, shell-racked, hungry, dirty, bothered with cooties and generally „fed up". The strange psychology of soldiering is that once out of shelling distance the mental and moral reaction is sufficient to bring about a wonderful effect. During the day of Nov. 1 spent in the Foret de Hesse tired, fatigued soldiers did a hundred and one bits of work. Shirts were washed in efforts to get rid of cooties, arms and equipment were polished and cleaned, company barbers who had carried their razors and clippers put in a busy day.

No other excitement occured than the arrival of several hundred replacement troops and some few officers of the regiment who had spent the month of October at a corps school of instruction. Early on Nov. 2 Colonel Adams loaded his regiment on camions and by nightfall there was a roof of a French home over each man's head. For the first night in two months — 58 days to be exact — men of the Thirty-eighth were out of shelled areas. Kitchens had been loaded aboard the camions and mess sergeants immediately began to fill out the creases in maltreated stomachs. During the morning of Nov. 4 the wagon train rejoined.

CHAPTER XXVI.

THE ARMISTICE.

Regimental headquarters and the three extra companies had billets in Le Bouchon; the First Battalion and Co. M occupied Dammarie; the Second Battalion had Foucheres; and the Third Battalion went to Morley. All these villages are in the southern extremity of the Department of the Meuse, south of Bar-le-Duc.

Here it was that the day of days — Nov. 11, 1918 — found the Thirty-eighth resting rather uneasily. For the last two weeks in October rumor had followed fact concerning the inevitable outcome of the war. Austria had surrendered; Germany had offered and later begged for an armistice; and on Nov. 7 had humbly petitioned Marshal Foch at his headquarters for a cessation of hostilities.

French civilians in the vicinity were even more excitable than usual. They repeated each new rumor and hourly questioned the doughboys for additional bits of news. Four days after arriving at billets the regiment was ordered to move from the Tronville area to the Gondrecourt billeting area, where it had been in August, and advance groups of officers and men were sent. This projected move, which was later cancelled, caused no end of conjecture and speculation and was translated into meaning any number of

things. Then as the interval allowed by Marshal Foch to the German delegates passed and the deciding hour on the morning of Nov. 11 approached the air was surcharged with excitement, gossip, and authoritative facts.

The companies turned in for sleep on the night of Nov. 10 taut with the tension of those memorable days and both optimistic and apprehensive of the morrow. Just after midnight motorcycle couriers from headquarters awakened adjutants and battalion commanders in each town with the field order from the division that the regiment would move at daybreak.

Every last man was up by 4 o'clock, and had rolled his pack. Mess and supply sergeants packed their company wagons. At 7 o'clock on the morning of Nov. 11 the regiment was in a column of squads on the road outside each of the four towns and preparing to embus in French camions which were already drawn up in readiness. Wagon trains had been formed.

The order was to move toward Metz, become part of the newly created Second American Army, and go forward in another gigantic attack that aimed to close in on the Lorraine capitol, cut off the German armies in northern France and bring about a certain decisive victory of the war.

And then the big news came. THE GERMAN DELEGATES HAD SIGNED THE ARMISTICE and fighting would stop at 11 o'clock that very morning. It was the end.

Companies retraced their steps to their billets, hung up their rifles and equipment and smiled, then laughed aloud, and wound up with just plain, natural, unaffected outbursts of delight. It was the grandest kind of a glorious feeling, to know we had been through the mightiest war and mightiest battles in the world's history and had come through alive. That was it, HAD COME THROUGH ALIVE!

French civilians alternately cried and laughed at the first news of joy, and then scampered to the up-stairs

windows to hang out the tricolors. Then corks began to pop. Some few of us in the Thirty-eighth wished we could be in Paris, or better still, in New York for the celebrating, but the next minute we were ashamed of our selfish, avaricious aspiration. It was wonderful enough to be a veteran of the Thirty-eighth's long succession of battles, and to be still alive, without hoping for more.

As a matter of fact, the morning's news, although stamped as official from higher headquarters, was almost too good to be true. What we wanted was some one, some one in authority, to say so in so many words and to hear him say it. That came in the afternoon. Brigadier General Preston Brown, who had succeeded Major General Buck in command of the 3rd Division during the final days along the Meuse, paid a visit to the regiment and outlined briefly the drastic terms of the armistice.

And not the least interesting clause related to the occupation of German territory along the Rhine. „The very best American divisions will be selected for this honor", said General Brown. That hint was enough. Officers and enlisted men returned to their billets and began to spruce up and to transform greasy, dirty canvas, leather and woolen equipment into immaculate appearance. The regiment was playing a „hunch". With a record of the Marne, the Vesle, the St. Mihiel and the Meuse behind it, nothing in the way of honors was too much to expect.

Fighting had stopped, the war was over. Behind were sad memories, horrible sights, and sickening sensations. Nothing but happiness, joy and peace faced us.

CHAPTER XXVII.

MARCHING TO GERMANY.

Only two days following the armistice were spent in the villages of Le Bouchon, Foucheres, Dammarie, and Morley. These were busy days, too, for in addition to being one of the best fighting divisions in the A. E. F. the 3rd essayed to become the best looking and best disciplined for its stay in occupied territory. Not a man in the Thirty-eighth expected to remain in France and no one was disappointed when the order came early in the morning of Nov. 14 to pack up again and move toward Lorraine.

The troops loaded into camions about noon and the regimental wagon train started off independently, both headed for Hannonville, in the Department of Meurthe-et-Moselle. It was part of the general movement of allied troops toward the Rhine and along the way nothing but happy, boisterous loads of soldiers greeted our train. After dark on Nov. 14 the troops had travelled through the Commercy and St. Mihiel districts and reached an open field near Hannonville.

To a regiment of men who think of the front line in terms of tiny, wet rat-holes wherein one huddles to escape wind or rain or more probably nasty 77's, much too close for comfort and safety, the two nights spent in an open field north of Hannonville are certain to form lasting

impressions. Germany's peacemakers had signed the armistice early in the week and the Thirty-eighth had been hustled out of its billeting area and dumped off at 10.30 o'clock in the coldest night of the Autumn to find sleep under seldom used pup tents. The „fall out" command was the signal to drop packs and rustle firewood.

Less than ten minutes later regimental veterans who knew the Marne, Vesle and Meuse fronts as places where whispering was dangerous and where the lighted end of a cigarette oftentimes fatal, gazed in astonishment, then smiled in delight, and then hip-hip-horrayed with the others. For here was a regiment, under canvas, divided into company streets, out in the open, with no camouflage, and before and behind each tent was a roaring, blazing, welcome bonfire. And all this was within a few hundred metres of the front-line-that-was, and all within plain sight of as many Boche as cared to look in the direction as they ploughed Deutschland-ward over the mountain roads a few kilometres to the north. These nights of Nov. 14 and 15 spent near Hannonville were the best tours of front line duty ever done.

Not one or two or a few but truly hundreds of tiny fire dots thawed out frozen ground that first memorable night and even more bonfires, more singing and cheering the second night. A clearer realization that the end of the war had come served to enthuse all the more. It was veritably a Civil War pen-sketch of camp fires which had come to life.

Every now and then a not too distant rumble, a flash on the sky or a succession of rockets would force a temporary silence. But then a laugh would shake off the nervous idea of a few that fighting had been resumed. For all began to know these noises and sights as the celebrations of adjoining regiments.

At dusk of the third night near Hannonville the rolling kitchens and supply wagons caught up. But no sooner had a hot meal been served than the order came to move to a position on the main road, between Wöel and St. Mau-

rice, in readiness for the start across the four-year-old No Man's Land.

And so it was that about 7 o'clock on the Sunday morning of Nov. 17, the Thirty-eighth swung into the road as a part of the vanguard of the Third Army, or Army of Occupation. But it wasn't a steel-helmeted, gas-alerted column of noiseless files which crossed the old front line that morning. Men of the Thirty-eighth marched four abreast with their band to furnish music for the cadence as they passed through villages, until the day before occupied by Germans. Gas masks — those machinations of war which hang heavy on a man's neck and horrorful with memories of too-tight noseclips, rubber mouth pieces and dimmed glasses — had been salvaged. The heavy steel helmets had very nearly been discarded too, for they hung as far away as possible — on the tail end of each man's pack.

When the allied armies of occupation moved across the recent front line Nov. 17, Germans began to withdraw, evacuating the villages they had held for so many months. By the middle of the afternoon Friauville had been reached and here the Thirty-eighth halted for the first night in „Germanized" France. Although just out of range of artillery, Friauville had the same delapidated, dirty, ragged appearance that characterizes badly shelled towns along the Marne. The Huns had moved out only a few hours before, but their quarters contained only those things deemed not worth carrying away. Everything possible in the way of French civilians' personal possessions had been stolen.

Humorously inclined Germans had brushed painted decorations on the walls of several houses. In the Soldatenheim, the enlisted men's clubhouse found in every conquered town, was a painting that perhaps typifies them all. It showed an artillery officer in his dugout on the front. He was receiving a telephone message from the rear which ordered him to suspend fire for five minutes while the commanding general read the news of the latest German

successes. Soldiers of the Kaiser were fed on such military egotism even during their rest periods.

The day following brought the regiment through Conflans and into Briey, where a days' halt was taken. Conflans, a center of the rich coal fields of France, greeted the Thirty-eighth with an array of flags of all the Entente, bunting and streamers bearing „Honneur a nos allies" or „Vive l'Amerique". Although Conflans is a fair-sized town, it is strange that so much tricolor could have been hoarded and hidden by the civilians from their German overlords for four long years.

There was no mistaking the attempt to welcome us, even though many of the home-made flags of the United States had orange as a substitute for the red, or a light Columbia blue instead of the darker standard. And what did we care if time had limited the thankful civilians to cutting and sewing only thirty stars instead of the full quota of forty-eight?

Released prisoners, bound for the cities of France, passed us each day. The majority were Russians, Roumanians and Italians and their faces, clothing and weakened physique proclaimed them readily as victims of German bondage. It was pitiful to watch the eagerness with which they would snatch at a few squares of hard bread which the doughboys offered them.

Everything en route proclaimed the intention of the Germans to occupy permanently all this rich French territory. Elaborately constructed cemeteries with massive shafts and monuments had been built in each French village back from the zone of shelling and in Briey the Huns had almost completed a big theatre building of granite and brick. Over the front portal was the chiselled sign „Stadttheatre", as evidence of expected permanent annexation.

Civilians gave vent to their unbounded joy in cheering, songs and demonstrations of welcome. Many could converse in French — their native language — only poorly, for

during the four years of German occupation they had been under penalty of speaking only the hard, gutteral tongue of their conquerors.

After a day's stop-over on Nov. 19, when the regiment was separated among the towns of Briey, Genaville and Les Baroches, the day of Nov. 20 provided a memorable march. On that morning the Thirty-eighth, still the advance guard for the 3rd Division and with Co. M acting as advance party, passed through the small village of Avril, the last town in France, and wound its way down into a valley. A tiny brook was the boundary line between France and Lorraine and here was the sign „Deutsches Reich". Later travels through Lorraine showed that many of these hated signs had been removed or scratched into obliteration by the repatriated civilians. Although a detachment of signal corps troops had preceded the regiment into Lorraine several hours earlier, this crossing of the borderline probably marked the first entry of bodies of American troops into German territory.

The night of Nov. 20 was spent in and on the outskirts of the fairly large German mining town of Hayingen, where Prussian business interests were considerable and where French families were in the minority. Indeed, men and women of French ancestry looked cautiously in all directions before daring to converse in their favorite tongue. They could not accustom themselves to the „millenium".

Ex-German soldiers and sailors, being demobilized each day, thronged the streets to watch our entrance into their towns. And the majority of these native Lorrainers were inwardly happy with the outcome. Their service in German armies and fleets had been forced. As the Thirty-eighth pushed into Lorraine and neared Luxembourg there were fewer and fewer flags of the Allies exhibited, but apparently as much happiness and sincerity over our coming. But the people could not so quickly divorce themselves from the fear and power of German rule. Little children shouted „Vive la France", but if a question in French was put to

them they shook their heads and answered, almost dejectedly, „nicht verstehe". Their foreign vocabulary was limited to the three words.

The regiment reached Mondorf-les-Bains on Nov. 22 and was now in the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg. Another hour's march brough the battalions to the city of Remich and the towns of Wellenstein and Ellingen, where an eight-days' rest followed.

The complete route of march and the stopping places each night were as follows:-

Nov. 17 — Hdqrs. and First and Third Battalions at Friauville; Second Battalion at Abbeville and Ozerailles.
Nov. 18 — Hdqrs., Third Battalion and Co. G at Les Baroches; Second Battalion and machine gun company at Genaville; First Battalion at Briey.
Nov. 19 — Same as previous day.
Nov. 20 — Hdqrs. and First and Second Battalions at Hayingen; Third Battalion at Algringen and Nilvingen. (All in Lorraine)
Nov. 21 — Hdqrs. and First Battalion at Rousse le Burg; Second Battalion at Briesdorf; Third Battalion at Niederparthe.
Nov. 22 — Hdqrs. and First Battalion at Ellingen; Second Battalion at Remich; Third Battalion at Wellenstein. (All in Luxembourg.)
Nov. 23—30 — No further advance.
Dec. 1 — Hdqrs. and Second Battalion at Beurig; Third Battalion at Saarburg; First Battalion at Schoder, Ockten, Irsch and Serrig. (All in Germany proper.)
Dec. 2 — Hdqrs. and Second Battalion near Pellingen; First Battalion at Schoner; Third Battalion at Waldrach.
Dec. 3 — Entire regiment camps in woods near Jagdhs-Weidmannsheil.
Dec. 4 — Entire regiment in shelter tents on outskirts of Malborn.
Dec. 5 — Hdqrs., Second and Third Battalions in shelter tents on outskirts of Gutenthal; First Battalion at Odert.
Dec. 6 — Entire regiment at Büchenbeuren.

Dec. 7 — Hdqrs., First and Third Battalions at Hundheim; Second Battalion and machine gun company at Liedeneck.
Dec. 8 — Same as previous day.
Dec. 9 — Hdqrs., First and Second Battalions at Godenroth; Third Battalion at Höllnich.
Dec. 10 — Regiment reached the Rhine River; entire regiment at Biebernheim.
Dec. 11—14 — No further advance.
Dec. 15 — Entire regiment at Rhens.
Dec. 16 — Regiment marches through Coblence; Hdqrs., First and Second Battalion at Rübenach; Third Battalion at Bassenheim.
Dec. 17 — Area of occupation reached; Hdqrs. and First Battalion at Niedermendig; Second Battalion, headquarters, machine gun and supply companies at Obermendig; Third Battalion headquarters and Cos. L and M at Ettringen; Co. K at St. Johann; Co. I at Bürresheim Castle.

The eight days spent in Luxembourg proved interesting and comfortable. Although the people usually speak German among themselves, they are equally as fluent in the French language, their sympathies are French (or Belgian), and they extended a sincere welcome. Some few of their tradespeople started rather sizeable fortunes by changing the regiment's stock of francs into marks at the rate of 80 marks for 100 francs, whereas the legal rate was later adjusted to about twice this amount. The great majority seemed heartily glad to see Americans, made comfortable billets for them, and provided formal introductions to that beverage, schnopps. Soldiers insist it is concocted by diluting liquid dynamite with kerosene oil.

The stay in Luxembourg was broken by several interesting happenings. Excellent mineral baths in Mondorf provided troops with hot showers for the first time in many months and the 3rd Division companies were marched to this luxury twice during the eight days. Platoons from the Second and Third Battalions patrolled the Moselle River, which separates Luxembourg from Prussia, but there was

no excitement Natives in Luxemburg could not hide their feeling that the allied occupation of Germany would not be without violence and bloodshed. Each day brought new warnings for us against trickery.

Thanksgiving Day found the regiment still at Remich, Wellenstein and Ellingen and some few companies were lucky enough to be able to buy extras, such as fresh vegetables, a few chickens, or cider, for the occasion. Other companies had innovations prepared by their enterprising mess sergeants and all in all the holiday was well spent.

Major General Robert L. Howze had succeeded Brigadier General Brown as division commander and his visits of inspection found a clean, well disciplined regiment. In preparation for its entrance into Rhineland and Prussia the Thirty-eighth took pride in policing up and making the best possible appearance. Supplies were lacking, shoes were old and worn and showed the effects of September and October rains, but they were cleaned and greased as well as possible. Uniforms went through daily sieges with stout, stiff brushes until every last speck of mud or grease was eliminated. And even the steel helmets got treated to an overhauling with oil.

The continuance of the trip drew near. It was not without its possibilities, either. Higher commanders warned against fraternization with German civilians, warned against knavery, and outlined some few overt acts which might be expected from women and children. But the regiment buckled up, stood pat, clenched its teeth, and announced it was ready.

CHAPTER XXVIII.

ON THE RHINE.

There was an eagerness in the tones of the bugles that blew reveille before daylight on Dec. 1. By another hour the Thirty-eighth was on the road, but had to wait just outside Remich while advance guard troops crossed over into Prussia. About 9 o'clock it came our turn to file on the bridge across the Moselle River and in a few minutes the last man was on real, sure-enough, Germany territory.

Probably the first impression was the roads, this being an infantry regiment. Those German highways were noticably inferior to the wide, hardened, arteries of French traffic. They were muddy, narrow, and in parts broken away. The Thirty-eighth was in a few more days to know all about German roads, when the majority of men had almost worn out their shoe soles completely and others were actually walking in stocking feet as they plodded on daily toward the Rhine.

On this first day the expected attitude of civilians was found, but nothing more. Few persons stood along the streets to watch our march, for the majority were indoors behind closed and curtained windows. But there were no acts of violence, no use of arms, no pots of urine flung from second story windows, no spitting at us by small children.

The regiment wound up in the vicinity of the fairly large town of Saarburg for the night. Billeting arrangements were much different from those in France. Companies were not crowded into an alloted space, but took all the room needed and the great majority of men had comfortable beds. There was no attempt by the billeting agents to demand anything unreasonable. And, likewise, there was little or no attitude of insolence on the part of the civilians to withhold accomodations.

On the second day nothing but hills seemed to loom up ahead of the regiment as it marched eastward. It was in the territory of the steep mountain ranges in western Prussia and because towns and villages are there far apart some of the regimental units spent the night under their shelter tents near Pellingen. The Third Battalion had the hardest lot on Dec. 2. It was ordered to Wallrach, nearly 40 kilometres from the start of the day's march, and just south of Trier. Long after dark, the battalion piled into town utterly exhausted after a day on rainy, muddy roads and along narrow, treacherous mountain passes.

For the next three days, still in this hilly territory which for all the world resembles our own Rocky Mountains, there were no billets except for officers and for company orderly rooms. On Dec. 3, another rainy night, the regiment occupied a bivouac in an imperial game preserve in fir woods near Osburg. The next two days brought the regiment to Malborn and Gutenthal where billeting accomodations were also limited.

In Malborn an incident of real human interest occured. A middle-aged civilian came upon a group of soldiers and in perfect English inquired. „Hello, boys, how are you making out," A conservation followed and he explained he had lived for many years in America, only to be caught in Germany at the outbreak of the war. He had a son in the United States army, he declared, but had no idea in what branch of the service or in what regiment. The civilian continued his wanderings through the Thirty-eighth camp

and in passing a group of Co. M soldiers he saw a familiar form, looked at its face, and then embraced it. It was his son.

Once out of the mountainous regions, billeting for every man in the regiment was afforded each night. But the march was getting long. Soldiers were tiring from the daily program of arising at 4.00 a. m. and being on the road—all kinds of roads—until late each afternoon. But there was little sickness and those who dropped out were the absolute minimum.

Shoe leather cannot hold out forever, especially the leather in shoes issued three or four months before and worn throughout front line duty. These field shoes began to show signs of wear on the hard, firm French roads, but once they plodded along wet, soft, muddy German roads they began to rot. By Dec. 7 fully ten percent. of the men in each company were walking on stocking feet, and another forty percent. had soles which were thinning daily. It became serious. Men would hobble into their destination each night with bleeding heels and toes. And there were no shoes to issue.

It was necessary to order many of these men to ride on ambulances. Others stood the ordeal like stoics. Of course, no claim is made that the Thirty-eighth had the hardest route of march or the longest of any of the American regiments which hiked into Germany. But any organization which covered the hundreds of kilometres from the jumping-off line in France to the Rhine River all the way by foot accomplished a great task. It was nearly Winter time. Several nights were spent in succession on the ground under shelter tents. Food was not always plentiful owing to the bad roads and difficulties of transportation. And any United States soldier who started, continued, and finished that long hike can look back with unqualified elation and congratulate himself for his accomplishment.

From the time of leaving Luxembourg, on Dec. 1, only one day's rest was taken until the Thirty-eighth came into

sight of the Rhine on Dec. 10. Nine of the days had been marching days, the distances covered varying between 12 to 40 kilometres.

On the morning of Dec. 10 the troops started across country from Godenroth and the wagon train around the roads, both in the general direction of St. Goar, on the Rhine. The day was rainy, as usual, but in the late afternoon it cleared and just before dusk the regiment halted at the town of Biebernheim. This village is on top and at the very edge of the cliffs which border the Rhine on the west. The end of a long day's hike is a poor time to offer beautiful scenery to tired infantrymen, but those who had some surplus ambition had only to walk to the edge of town and there gaze deep down between the wall-like mountains of rock and see at the bottom the Rhine.

Four days were spent in Biebernheim and the Thirty-eighth was fortunate. Here is a portion of the Rhine valley abounding in castles, ruins, and points of interest. Up the river soldiers could see the Loreley Rocks. In the other direction lay the Cat and the Mouse castles. And right here, between Biebernheim and St. Goar, which lays below on the river's edge, is one the most historic and oldest castles in Europe. It is Rheinfels. Many troops of the Thirty-eighth had the opportunity of exploring this famous old ruin, whose owner is one William Hohenzollern.

For a couple of days, probably, the average doughboy cared about nothing except getting a series of long sleeps to rest up from his hike. And then he began to think about his experiences, and to write home about them. Here he was, on the Rhine, in Germany; yes, in Prussia. Here he was occupying enemy country, seeing nothing but enemy people, reading nothing but enemy signs on shop windows, and living among enemy families. Slightly more than a month ago he had been fighting these institutions, killing these people. Fruits of victory? It was all of that, and more.

It just gave one the greatest kind of feeling „inside", it just swelled one with pride and achievement, it just made the Thirty-eighth man the biggest being that exists. He seemed to own the world. Mail began to arrive, and he couldn't answer his letters quick enough. There was so much to tell a gray-haired mother about crossing the old front line, about entering Lorraine, about stopping in Luxembourg, and about OCCUPYING GERMANY.

Three more marches still lay ahead of the „Rock of the Marne regiment." Dec. 15 proved to be a beautiful, warm, Sunday and in the morning the Thirty-eighth crept down the narrow, steep, winding road from Biebernheim to St. Goar, swung out on the main boulevard northward and in a few minutes was enjoying scenery the equal of which no regiment of American soldiers ever experienced. The wide, smooth boulevard paralleled the Rhine, in places not more than 50 yards away. Down the river the regiment moved, straining necks at every half mile to look at some new castle or ruin. Passing through Boppard, the Thirty-eighth rounded a bend in the winding Rhine and there ahead one could see the tall chimneys and church steeples in Coblence. But a halt was made at Rhens and a night spent in this historical old site of the Konigstuhl, where early Prussian kings held their coronations.

On the 16th an early morning start brought the regiment into Coblence, through winding streets, over the wide Moselle river and northwest into the town of Rübenach, where another night's halt was made. The Third Battalion went on for another four kilometres to Bassenheim.

The day of Dec. 17, exactly one month after starting from Wöel across the old front line, brought the Thirty-eighth to the end of its long march. Colonel Adams had an extra share of pride as he led regimental headquarters and the First Battalion into Niedermendig, announced to Herr Burgermeister that he had come to stay awhile, and proceeded to make himself and his troops at home.

The Second Battalion and the three unlettered companies continued to Obermendig and the Third Battalion went still further to Ettringen. The last named town proved too small for four companies. Co. K went to the tiny hamlet of St. Johann and Co. I was moved into Bürresheim Castle, probably the oldest inhabitable castle in the whole Rhine district.

Here American doughboys are sleeping in massive four-post beds centuries old, living in rooms where priceless tapestries and paintings adorn the walls, and idling after drill hours on grounds that form part of one of the wealthiest estates in Prussia. Within the last two years William Hohenzollern, late Kaiser of the empire, was a guest of the resident count at the castle.

And here in this area remains the 3rd Division. Here in the County of Mayen, Rhineland Province, Prussia, Germany soldiers of the Thirty-eighth are drilling a little each morning, playing athletic games in the afternoon, and visiting the mess halls at night where theatricals or boxing bouts or other entertainments help to break the monotony of garrison duty in occupation of Germany.

The soldier's always excitable companion — rumor — is working overtime these days. At times the ports of embarkation at Brest or St. Nazaire seem millions of miles away, whereas Russia, Poland or Turkey, with their Bolsheviks and new regimes, seem not too distant.

Perhaps a sequel to this little tale of the „Rock of the Marne regiment" will be necessary some day to complete the story.

CHAPTER XXIX.

THE CASUALTIES.

The Thirty-eighth regiment of United States Infantry suffered during all its battles a total of 2,917 casualties, divided as follows:- killed, 534; wounded, 2,186; missing in action, 197.

In announcing these figures, the writer of this history admits readily that they are open to correction now, and probably always will be. Absolute, definite and exact casualty lists are impossible to obtain. Even in the years to come, when War Department bureaux will check and re-check the reports of operations, there are certain to be continual corrections and even after the most painstaking investigations there will always be soldiers unaccounted for.

Modern warfare, with its fighting by small groups, with its wave attacks, with its infiltration, with its scouting and patrolling, does not permit of positively accurate figures showing the killed, wounded, and missing in action. The men killed may be, and generally are, known definitely. This is because of the regulations covering the identification of bodies. The disks hung around a soldier's neck are examined; chaplains with combat units and the medical officers furnish careful lists to higher headquarters of the men killed instantly and those who die at the aid stations. Squads from the Graves Registration Bureau comb the

battle fields after actions and engagements and find bodies previously overlooked.

But it is entirely different with the missing. Several things may happen. Under heavy bombardment every member of this regiment has seen soldiers blown to pieces; others have been so badly mangled as to prohibit identification; others have been partially or completely buried when a dugout or fox-hole has been caved in by an exploding shell; others have been wounded, taken prisoner, and died in enemy hands. Perhaps a soldier about to be captured has torn off his identity disks and thrown them away in order to prevent the enemy from gaining information about his regiment or division.

These are gruesome details, but they are given to explain the cause of „missing in action".

In the Thirty-eighth some facts and figures of the casualties are known definitely. Other statistics will be subject to alteration and correction continually. Only the number of known, identified dead can be recorded accurately and their names are included at the end of the book. In this regiment this number is 534, including 23 officers and 511 enlisted men of all grades.

In a single regiment such a total of dead is appallingly large Although a regiment's full strength (on paper) is 3770 officers and men, the Thirty-eighth never had that number in actual combat. When it entered the Second Battle of the Marne the Thirty-eighth had less than 3600 men and has never since reached even that total. The total of 534 known dead means, therefore, that more than one man out of every seven has been killed. Granting that on July 15 the regiment had a strength of 3600, which it did not, one man out of 6.74 men has since been killed in action or died subsequently of wounds. Such figures for one regiment although startling are nevertheless true.

With the missing, the same definiteness of figures does not exist. One officer of the Thirty-eighth is carried as missing, yet he is known to be dead. This officer is Lieu-

tenant Edwards, reported missing after a patrol had been sent across the Marne River early in June. There is absolutely no doubt that he was drowned, yet because no official information has come to the regiment he will always be carried as missing. The number of enlisted men missing is 196. It is barely possible that this aggregate will be diminished in months to come, but it is unlikely that a subtraction from this number will be transferred as an addition to the wounded or unwounded lists. On the contrary, it will probably be made to the column of killed or died of wounds. As these chapters are being written (February, 1919) a period of more than three and one-half months has elapsed since the last battle of the Thirty-eighth. Company commanders have inquired into and investigated carefully each reported casualty. Reports of prisoners returned from Germany have been made, yet after all there remain 196 enlisted men still „missing in action". Their names, too. are included at the end of this book.

Combining, then, the killed and missing results in a total of 731 for the regiment. On the same basis of a strength of 3600, this means that one man of the Thirty-eighth out of every 4.92 men has been killed or is missing.

In the case of officers and men wounded, the figures compiled in the preparation of this history are conservative. If anything, they are under rather than over. Many members of the regiment who have had minor flesh wounds or who were gassed received treatment from the regimental medical personnel and were not evacuated to hospitals. This class of men was wounded in every sense of the word but remained on duty with the organization. In submitting casualty lists company commanders did not always include such wounded men.

By units, Co. G, which occupied the pivot in the attack against the positions on the south of the river in the Second Battle of the Marne, has had the greatest number of casualties. Its total is 317 officers and enlisted men killed, wounded and missing. Co. F, however, has had the

largest number of men killed in action or died of wounds, the aggregate being 67. Of the rifle companies, Co. L turned in the smallest number of casualties, which was 114, and Co. E, with 25 killed, had the least number of deaths in action.

Here follows a table of casualties covering all three operations in which the Thirty-eighth Infantry lost men:-

	(Officers)			(Enlisted Men)			
	Killed	Wounded	Missing	Killed	Wounded	Missing	Total
Hdqrs. Staff	1	3	0	—	—	—	4
1st Bn. Hdqrs.	0	4	0	0	1	0	5
Co. A	2	6	1	41	207	9	266
Co. B	2	8	0	31	123	18	182
Co. C	3	6	0	46	175	0	230
Co. D	2	6	0	36	186	9	239
2nd Bn. Hdqrs.	0	6	0	0	2	0	8
Co. E	1	9	0	25	146	26	207
Co. F	2	8	0	67	159	37	273
Co. G	3	6	0	59	238	11	317
Co. H	2	5	0	43	210	31	291
3rd Bn. Hdqrs.	0	1	0	0	1	0	2
Co. I	1	3	0	26	114	11	155
Co. K	1	3	0	36	113	9	162
Co. L	0	4	0	27	75	8	114
Co. M	2	4	0	37	130	22	195
Hdqrs. Co.	0	2	0	11	38	1	52
M. G. Co.	0	8	0	20	152	3	183
Sup. Co.	0	0	0	2	7	0	9
Med. Det.	1	1	0	4	16	1	23
TOTAL	23	93	1	511	2093	196	2917

The following tabulation shows the total of all three degrees of casualties for each of the three operations:-

	Marne	Vesle	Argonne-Meuse	Total
Hdqrs. Staff	2	0	2	4
1st Bn. Hdqrs.	1	0	4	5
Co. A	96	65	105	266
Co. B	28	53	101	182

	Marne	Vesle	Argonne-Meuse	Total
Co. C	100	14	116	230
Co. D	80	52	107	239
2nd Bn. Hdqrs.	3	1	4	8
Co. E	69	41	97	207
Co. F	141	77	55	273
Co. G	140	41	136	317
Co. H	120	23	148	291
3rd Bn. Hdqrs.	0	0	2	2
Co. I	52	0	103	155
Co. K	65	3	94	162
Co. L	71	4	39	114
Co. M	82	2	111	195
Hdqrs. Co.	16	6	30	52
M. G. Co.	58	9	116	183
Sup. Co.	6	1	2	9
Med. Det.	12	2	9	23
TOTAL	1142	394	1381	2917

The fighting on the Marne River may be divided into three distinct phases. The first includes the six weeks previous to the Second Battle of the Marne; the second is the battle; and the third is the advance and counter-attack when the Thirty-eighth crossed the river and gained its objective at le Charmel. Of the 14 officers who lost their lives on the Marne, including the one carried as missing, 10 were killed in the fighting on July 15 and subsequent days. They were Captain Daniels, and Lieutenants Murray, Phillips, Young, Healy (who died of wounds in a Paris hospital), Crandall, White, Lewis, Dunn and Winstead. The officer missing, Lieutenant Edwards, was lost during the first phase along the Marne. Lieutenant Fisher was downed in this first phase. Captain Ledford and Lieutenant Wallrich were killed in the vicinity of Jaulgonne in the counter-attack operation on July 22.

Both officers killed on the Vesle lost their lives in connection with the attack on Aug. 7. Lieutenant McCall was wounded by machine gun fire after crossing the river

and died a few hours later. Lieutenant Cramer was killed by shell fire while on duty as Second Battalion intelligence officer.

The fighting in the great Argonne-Meuse offensive can also be divided. The first phase includes the attacks on Oct. 8 and 9, and the second the advance on Oct. 22 when the regiment captured and held Hill 299. In the first phase machine gun bullets and shell fire claimed the lives of Lieut. Col. Williams, Captain Austin (who died of wounds) and Lieutenants Collord, Wood and Johnson. Later in the month Captain Combs and Lieutenants Doscher and Spencer were killed, the last named dying after reaching a hospital.

The composite summary of officers and enlisted men from all companies reported killed, wounded or missing follows:-

	(Officers)			(Enlisted men)			Total
	Killed	Wounded	Missing	Killed	Wounded	Missing	
Marne	13	34	1	228	813	53	1142
Vesle	2	10	0	78	281	23	394
Argonne-Meuse	8	49	0	205	999	120	1381
TOTAL	23	93	1	511	2093	196	2917

The foregoing tabulation given in detail by units follows:-

Headquarters Staff

Marne	0	2	0	—	—	—	2
Vesle	0	0	0	—	—	—	0
Argonne-Meuse	1	1	0	—	—	—	2
TOTAL	1	3	0	—	—	—	4

1st Bn. Headquarters

Marne	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
Vesle	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Argonne-Meuse	0	3	0	0	1	0	4
TOTAL	0	4	0	0	1	0	5

	(Officers)			(Enlisted Men)			
	Killed	Wounded	Missing	Killed	Wounded	Missing	Total
Company A.							
Marne	2	2	1	15	76	0	96
Vesle	0	1	0	13	51	0	65
Argonne-Meuse	0	3	0	13	80	9	105
TOTAL . . .	2	6	1	41	207	9	266
Company B.							
Marne	2	1	0	8	17	0	28
Vesle	0	3	0	16	34	0	53
Argonne-Meuse	0	4	0	7	72	18	101
TOTAL . . .	2	8	0	31	123	18	182
Company C.							
Marne	1	2	0	22	75	0	100
Vesle	1	0	0	3	10	0	14
Argonne-Meuse	1	4	0	21	90	0	116
TOTAL . . .	3	6	0	46	175	0	230
Company D.							
Marne	1	3	0	13	63	0	80
Vesle	0	0	0	10	42	0	52
Argonne-Meuse	1	3	0	13	81	9	107
TOTAL . . .	2	6	0	36	186	9	239
2nd Bn. Headquarters							
Marne	0	2	0	0	1	0	3
Vesle	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
Argonne-Meuse	0	4	0	0	0	0	4
TOTAL . . .	0	6	0	0	2	0	8
Company E.							
Marne	1	5	0	7	51	5	69
Vesle	0	1	0	6	30	4	41
Argonne-Meuse	0	3	0	12	65	17	97
TOTAL . . .	1	9	0	25	146	26	207

	(Officers) Killed	Wounded	Missing	(Enlisted men) Killed	Wounded	Missing	Total
Company F.							
Marne . . .	1	3	0	35	85	17	141
Vesle	1	2	0	21	41	12	77
Argonne-Meuse	0	3	0	11	33	8	55
TOTAL . . .	2	8	0	67	159	37	273
Company G.							
Marne	2	2	0	31	101	4	140
Vesle	0	1	0	4	33	3	41
Argonne-Meuse	1	3	0	24	104	4	136
TOTAL . . .	3	6	0	59	238	11	317
Company H.							
Marne	1	2	0	18	87	12	120
Vesle	0	0	0	3	17	3	23
Argonne-Meuse	1	3	0	22	106	16	148
TOTAL . . .	2	5	0	43	210	31	291
3rd Bn. Headquarters							
Marne	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Vesle	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Argonne-Meuse	0	1	0	0	1	0	2
TOTAL . . .	0	1	0	0	1	0	2
Company I.							
Marne	0	0	0	9	42	1	52
Vesle	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Argonne-Meuse	1	3	0	17	72	10	103
TOTAL . . .	1	3	0	26	114	11	155
Company K.							
Marne	0	1	0	17	42	5	65
Vesle	0	0	0	0	2	1	3
Argonne-Meuse	1	2	0	19	69	3	94
TOTAL . . .	1	3	0	36	113	9	162

	(Officers)			(Enlisted men)			Total
	Killed	Wounded	Missing	Killed	Wounded	Missing	
Company L.							
Marne	0	2	0	16	51	2	71
Vesle	0	0	0	1	3	0	4
Argonne-Meuse	0	2	0	10	21	6	39
TOTAL . . .	0	4	0	27	75	8	114
Company M.							
Marne	1	1	0	18	57	5	82
Vesle	0	1	0	0	1	0	2
Argonne-Meuse	1	2	0	19	72	17	111
TOTAL . . .	2	4	0	37	130	22	195
Headquarters Co.							
Marne	0	2	0	4	10	0	16
Vesle	0	0	0	1	5	0	6
Argonne-Meuse	0	0	0	6	23	1	30
TOTAL . . .	0	2	0	11	38	1	52
Machine Gun Co.							
Marne	0	3	0	11	42	2	58
Vesle	0	0	0	0	9	0	9
Argonne-Meuse	0	5	0	9	101	1	116
TOTAL . . .	0	8	0	20	152	3	183
Supply Co.							
Marne	0	0	0	2	4	0	6
Vesle	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
Argonne-Meuse	0	0	0	0	2	0	2
TOTAL . . .	0	0	0	2	7	0	9
Medical Detachment							
Marne	1	0	0	2	9	0	12
Vesle	0	1	0	0	1	0	2
Argonne-Meuse	0	0	0	2	6	1	9
TOTAL . . .	1	1	0	4	16	1	23

A table of percentages of casualties in each company has been compiled. The figures for strength of the units are taken from the consolidated morning report of July 14, 1918, the morning previous to the Second Battle of the Marne. The strength figures are hardly accurate, however, for on that morning practically every company had at least one officer and several had two officers on special duty or detached service. Officers and enlisted men both were attending schools, on duty with higher headquarters, or otherwise absent from their own companies. The percentages are based on those strength statistics, however, and the result shows that five companies in the regiment had in excess of one hundred percent. casualties. They are Cos. A, F, G, H and the machine gun company. The table follows:-

Unit	Strength July 14, 1918 (Officers	Men)	Casualties (Officers	Men)	Percent
Hdqrs. Staff	10	—	4	—	40%
Co A	5	246	9	257	106%
Co. B	6	241	10	172	73%
Co. C	7	241	9	221	92%
Co. D	7	239	8	231	97%
Co. E	7	217	10	197	92%
Co. F	7	234	10	263	113%
Co. G	6	248	9	308	124%
Co. H	6	245	7	284	115%
Co. I	7	247	4	151	61%
Co. K	8	244	4	158	64%
Co. L	7	249	4	110	44%
Co. M	9	250	6	189	75%
Hdqrs. Co.	10	314	2	50	16%
M. G. Co.	8	170	8	175	102%
Sup. Co.	3	162	0	9	5%
Med. Det.	10	55	2	21	35%

These statistics show that of the average number of men engaged 81.02 percent. of the total have been killed, are missing, or have been wounded. This percentage is

reached from the casualty figures of 2,917 and assuming the average strength of the regiment to be 3,600. This strength is high. On the Marne the strength of the regiment was slightly less than that, and in the Vesle fighting considerably less because of the combatants lost on the Marne. The percentage reached is therefore conservative.

Of the total casualties, the killed and missing form 25.06 percent. This means that a greater ratio than one out of four casualties was a death. This is extremely high, for statistics compiled from other wars have indicated that the ratio of deaths out of total casualties was approximately one in ten.

"SALUTE THEM,
THEN
FORWARD"

— General McAlexander.

(* denotes died of wounds; ** denotes missing.)

Staff Officers

	(Home Address)
Lieut.-Col. Allan R. Williams	Jericho, Vt,
Captain Hoddie W. Daniels, 2nd Bn. Surgeon	Elkins, W. Va.

Company A

1st Lieut. Robert F. Crandall	Stamford, Conn.
1st Lieut. John B. White	Hutchinson, Kan.
**2nd Lieut. Roland W. Edwards	Arlington, Mass.
Sgt. Thomas J. Chase	Kingston, Pa.
Sgt. Albert J. Decker	— — —
Sgt. George Girard	Southbridge, Mass.
Sgt. Andy P. Nuckels	Princeton, Ky.
Sgt. Angel G. Pappas	Ipswich, Mass.
Sgt. William S. Temple	South Fork, Pa.
Sgt. John Turner	Reading, Pa.
**Cpl. Martin L. Anderson	— — —
Cpl. Colear E. Dobyns	— — —
Cpl. Frank W. Frankhauser	— — —
Cpl. Joseph Hassenforder	Jersey City, N. J.
**Cpl. Henry W. Innis	— — —
**Cpl. Joe Leonard	— — —
**Cpl. Theodore F. Meissner	— — —
*Cpl. Joseph Meyers	Brooklyn, N. Y.
**Cpl. Alvin Rowley	Pleasant Hill, Ill.
*Cpl. Roy O. Waltz	Toledo, O.
Pvt. Landrum Allen	— — —
Pvt. Abraham F. Anderson	— — —
*Pvt. Henry C. Beasley	— — —
Pvt. Earl A. Burns	— — —
Pvt. Edward J. Christensen	South Amboy, N. J.
Pvt. Charlie B. Clements	— — —
**Pvt. Jeremiah Crean	Mitteneague, Mass.
Pvt. Albert F. Dailing	— — —

Pvt. Lewis F. Evans . . . . . — — —
Pvt. Dave L. Farmer . . . . . — — —
Pvt. Henry Harrison . . . . . — — —
Pvt. Morris Heir . . . . . Jersey City, N. J.
Pvt. Jacob W. Heuple . . . . . — — —
Pvt. Stanley B. Hodgins . . . . . Toledo, O.
Pvt. Charles R. Heeb . . . . . — — —
Pvt. John A. Irvin . . . . . — — —
Pvt. Johnnie Johnson . . . . . — — —
Pvt. Edgar B. Lea . . . . . — — —
*Pvt. Arthur D. Lessing . . . . . — — —
Pvt Earl A. Livesay . . . . . Frankford, Va.
**Pvt Perry E. Lucas . . . . . — — —
Pvt. Loyd Majors . . . . . — — —
Pvt. Emmet Mannix . . . . . — — —
Pvt. Bernardino Miceni . . . . . — — —
Pvt. Albert O. Minke . . . . . Toledo, O.
Pvt. Thomas Patrick . . . . . Newark, N. J.
**Pvt. Martin S. Pilarski . . . . . — — —
Pvt. William Pruitt . . . . . — — —
Pvt. James Rottoon . . . . . Altoona, Pa.
Pvt. John Rhodes . . . . . — — —
Pvt. Wright B. Simons . . . . . — — —
**Pvt. William J. Spears . . . . . — — —
Pvt. Henry Tellone . . . . . Newark, N. J.

Company B.

1st. Lieut. Charles A. Lewis . . . . . Fayette, Ala.
2nd Lieut. Vedder Dunn . . . . Windsor, Ontario, Canada.

**Sgt. Nathan Ainisman . . . . . Brooklyn, N. Y.
Sgt. Russell I. Grant . . . . . Danville, Va.
Sgt. Percy F. Lyons . . . . . Beverly, Mass.
Sgt. Frederick Preisig . . . . . Orange, N. J.
**Cpl. Raymond W. Daniels . . . . . Binghamton, N. Y.
**Cpl. Tom Mack . . . . . — — —
Cpl. August C. Maul . . . . . — — —
**Cpl. Albert Peckham . . . . . Troy, N. Y.

Mech. Charles Schultz . . . . . Union Hill, N. J.
Mech. Napoleon Morin . . . . . Biddeford, Me.
Pvt. Dominico Bennedetti . . . . . — — —
Pvt. George S. Bitz . . . . . Toledo, O.
Pvt. Charles R. Blankenship . . . . . — — —
Pvt. Clyde Blungie . . . . . Jamaica, N. Y.
Pvt. Thomas Brennan . . . . . Toledo, O.
Pvt. Lucio Cimaroli . . . . . Erie, Pa.
Pvt. Leslie E. Collier . . . . . Sebring, Fla.
Pvt. Ashby J. Downey . . . . . — — —
Pvt. Joseph Fiore . . . . . Foggia, Italy
Pvt. Samuel T. Hand . . . . . — — —
**Pvt. William Haynes . . . . . — — —
Pvt. Roy Henderson . . . . . — — —
**Pvt. Albert Henry . . . . . — — —
**Pvt. Harvey Holland . . . . . — — —
**Pvt. William Hudson . . . . . — — —
Pvt. Joe W. Jessie . . . . . Nickelsville, Va.
Pvt. Robert L. Kesler . . . . . — — —
**Pvt. Joseph La Porte . . . . . — — —
Pvt. Webb A. Leath . . . . . — — —
**Pvt Roy Lynn . . . . . — — —
**Pvt Ernest Magoon . . . . . — — —
Pvt. Andrew McCabe . . . . . Fitchburg, Mass.
Pvt. William McFarland . . . . . — — —
Pvt. James Moore . . . . . — — —
**Pvt. Joseph Opicka . . . . . — — —
**Pvt. Cashmer Parash . . . . . — — —
**Pvt. Oscar Peters . . . . . — — —
Pvt. Guy R. Potter . . . . . — — —
**Pvt. Edgar Preston . . . . . — — —
Pvt. Lawrence H. Robinson . . . . . Gary, W. Va.
**Pvt. Herbert Rousseau . . . . . — — —
Pvt. James Savage . . . . . New York City
**Pvt. Leonard Sewell . . . . . — — —
Pvt. Frank Slupecki . . . . . Toledo, O.
Pvt. Harry W. Smith . . . . . Chicago, Ill.
Pvt. Joe S. Taylor . . . . . — — —
Pvt. Jessie Temple . . . . . Bolique, Ala.

Pvt. Wade Thompson . . . . . — — —
**Pvt. John Toth . . . . . Franklin Furnace, N. J.

Company C.

Captain Hanon Fields Combs . . . . Typo, Ky.
Ist Lieut. Guy J. Winstead . . . . . Roxboro, N. C.
2nd Lieut. Claude M. McCall . . . . Brewton, Ala,

Sgt. Clifford H. Cadwell . . . . . New York City.
Sgt. George D. Hubert . . . . . Locke, N. Y.
Sgt. Curtis A. Stoyer . . . . . Reading, Pa.
Cpl. Benjamin F. Amos . . . . . Wolfe City, Tex.
Cpl. John Bowman . . . . . Wilmington, O.
Cpl. George E. Brenner . . . . . Syracuse, N. Y.
Cpl. William Fark . . . . . South Euclid, O.
Cpl. Houston L. Meade . . . . . St. Paul, Va.
Cpl. Walter D. Perkins . . . . . Kennedy, N. Y.
Cpl. Charles C. Ross . . . . . Troy, Va.
Cpl. Ralph A. Wertz . . . . . Newcastle, Ind.
Pvt. William Alicas . . . . . Brooklyn, N. Y.
Pvt. Willie Barker . . . . . Bet, Ky.
Pvt. Rexford E. Barto . . . . . Portland, Ore.
Pvt. John H. Beam . . . . . Erie, Pa.
Pvt. Hermann R. Blum . . . . . Kahoka, Mo.
Pvt. Frank H. Brieschke . . . . . Blissfield, Mich.
Pvt. George H. Britton . . . . . Pittsford, Mich.
Pvt. Abb Camden . . . . . Glasgow, Va.
Pvt. George M. Cronn . . . . . Woodhaven, N. Y.
Pvt. Louis Cusato . . . . . Hoboken, N. J.
Pvt. Therl Dowdy . . . . . Wickliffe, Ky.
Pvt. Juan Duran . . . . Jalpa, Estade de Sacalecaz, Mexico.
Pvt. Andrew P. Fears . . . . . Amory, Miss.
Pvt. Lusiggi Fumano . . . . . Crestline, O.
Pvt. Lyman Fenstermaker . . . . . Hillsdale, Mich.
Pvt. Cristobal R. Hidalgo . . . . . New York City.
Pvt. Herbert E. Hirseland . . . . . Lima, O.
Pvt. Glen W. Irvin . . . . . Lima, O.
Pvt. Carl Loll . . . . . Rochester, N. Y.

Pvt. Michael R. Mattig . . . . . Modena, N. Y.
Pvt. Neely F. May . . . . . Dolph, Ark.
Pvt. Herman Mieresch . . . . . West Hoboken, N. J.
Pvt. Bohuniel Mikolasek . . . . . Yonkers, N. Y.
Pvt. Peter O'Rourke . . . . . Hoboken, N. J.
Pvt. James Overstreet . . . . . Salitpa, Ala.
Pvt. Maximilian E. Schuesselin . . . . Pleasant Hill, O.
Pvt. Clarence W. Schultz . . . . . Greenville, O.
Pvt. Allen Smelley . . . . . Potset, Tex.
Pvt. William F. Smith . . . . . Midland, Mich.
Pvt. Carminio Urrichio . . . . . Passaic, N. J.
Pvt. George Weinstein . . . . . Fall River, Mass.
Pvt. Jesse C. Wilcoxson . . . . . Florence, Ala.
Pvt. Dewey A. Williams . . . . . — — —
Pvt. James B. Wilson . . . . . — — —
Pvt. Charles Yasulevch . . . . . Lyman, Pa.

Company D.

Captain Shelby Ledford . . . . . Sault St. Marie, Mich.
*2nd Lieut. Daniel O. Spencer . . . . Cheraw, S. C.

*Cpl. Harry A. Apostol . . . . . Toledo, O.
*Cpl. George Davis . . . . . Blue Rapids, Kan.
Cpl. Laurance J. Kearney . . . . . West Detroit, Mich.
Cpl. Christopher Mohr . . . . . Hoboken, N. J.
Cpl. Louis Osherowitz . . . . . — — —
Mech. Arthur Rechnitz . . . . . New York City.
Mech. John M. Smith . . . . . Cleveland, O.
Bug Charles C. Leonhart . . . . . Elmira, N. Y.
Pvt. Alpha N. Autry . . . . . — — —
*Pvt. Archie C. Autry . . . . . Atlanta, Ga.
**Pvt. Edgar L. Bittman . . . . . Toledo, O.
**Pvt. Henry Boredging . . . . . New Bremen, O.
**Pvt. John S. Branch . . . . . — — —
Pvt. Gaspare Coppola . . . . . Brooklyn, N. Y.
*Pvt. Eugene E. Cox . . . . . — — —
Pvt. Hugh Farraday . . . . . Frostburg, Md.
Pvt. Levi L. Griffin . . . . . — — —
**Pvt. Theodore Hansson . . . . . — — —

Pvt Fred. Harrington . . . . . — — —
Pvt. George W. Huber . . . . . — — —
Pvt. Delbert J. Hartzog . . . . . Ohio City, O.
*Pvt. Fleet Johnston . . . . . — — —
**Pvt. Sterling G. Jones . . . . . — —
Pvt. Harry D. Keith . . . . . Nada, Cal.
**Pvt. Henry M. Kidd . . . . . Corbin, Ky.
Pvt. Ezra L. Langston . . . . . — — —
**Pvt. John S. Lewis . . . . . — — —
**Pvt. Russell L. Mathie . . . . . — — —
Pvt. George J. Nolte . . . . . Delpha, O.
Pvt. Samuel A. Painter . . . . . Johnstown, Pa.
*Pvt. Granfield Pasley . . . . . Scruggs, Va.
**Pvt. Francis O. Piper . . . . . — — —
Pvt. Ruben Redin . . . . . New York City
Pvt. Michael Schoenberger . . . . . — — —
Pvt. Emory C. Shrader . . . . . Marion, Va.
Pvt. Bertie R. Spencer . . . . . — — —
Pvt. William D. Sinks . . . . . — —
Pvt. Anthony Staniszewicki . . . . . Toledo, O.
Pvt. Jadie Starns . . . . . Dante, Va.
*Pvt. George H. B. Sutherland . . . . . — — —
Pvt. John O. Thomas . . . . . Ruverne, Ala.
Pvt. Hollie T. Thornton . . . . . Corona, Ala.
*Pvt. Boleslaw Witkowski . . . . . Toledo, O.
Pvt. Andrey Yanchuk . . . . . Boston, Mass.
Pvt. Sam Zolotorov . . . . . New York City

Company E.

*2nd Lieut. Jefferson A. Healy . . . . New York City.

Sgt. Edward Allen . . . . . Philadelphia, Pa.
Sgt. Jacob E. Carper . . . . . East Radford, Va.
Cpl. George Blessing . . . . . Syracuse, N. Y.
**Cpl. Charles H. Keeler . . . . . Philadelphia, Pa.
**Cpl. Edward McGoldrick . . . . . Boston, Mass.
Cpl. Joseph Yantorno . . . . . New York City
Pvt. Joseph Andrejcak . . . . . Philadelphia, Pa.
Pvt. Sidney B. Bartleson . . . . . Arile, Pa.

**Pvt. John Braccia . . . . . Boston, Mass.
**Pvt. Edgar M. Call . . . . . — — —
**Pvt. Alfred H. Chapman . . . . . Snowflake, Va.
Pvt. Jacob Cook . . . . . New York City.
**Pvt. Harry E. Curtis . . . . . Los Angeles, Cal.
Pvt. Joseph Cusano . . . . . New York City.
**Pvt. Cleveland Dean . . . . . — —
Pvt. Tony Desandre . . . . . New York City.
**Pvt. Napoleon Duprey . . . . . Duluth, Mich.
**Pvt. William C. Evans . . . . . Rocky Mountain, Va.
Pvt. Joseph Flickinger . . . . . Wooster, O.
Pvt. Walter P. Gilbreath . . . . . Portersville, Ala.
Pvt. Thomas J. Green . . . . . — — —
**Pvt. Fred. C. Klenke . . . . . Hoboken, N. J.
**Pvt. Alfred L. Langlias . . . . . Old Town, Me.
Pvt. Frank Lowenski . . . . . New York City.
**Pvt. Terry Marchette . . . . . New York City.
**Pvt. Nicola Marino . . . . . New York City.
**Pvt. Martin Mehan . . . . . Boston, Mass.
**Pvt. Emmet Miller . . . . . Toledo, O.
**Pvt. Lawrence M. Miller . . . . . Syracuse, N. Y.
**Pvt. Antonio Mollion . . . . . Boston, Mass.
**Pvt. Julius H. Moss . . . . . — — —
Pvt. John Nelson . . . . . Graettinger, Ia.
**Pvt. William Pramas . . . . . Boston, Maas.
**Pvt. William Prior . . . . . Napoleon, O.
Pvt. Charles F. Reehl, ... — — —
**Pvt. Homer Reeves . . . . . — —
Pvt. Joseph Rigdon . . . . . — — —
Pvt. Walter T. Roach . . . . . Hubbardston, Mich.
Pvt. Vito Rosso . . . . . Worcester, Mass.
**Pvt. Ivar Savalojar . . . . . New York City.
**Pvt. Edward H. Schmenk . . . . . Toledo, O.
Pvt. Max A. Schnettker . . . . . Erie, Mich.
Pvt. Flournoy Short . . . . . Roanoke, Va.
Pvt. Maynard R. Simpson . . . . . Lovingston, Va.
Pvt. Paul J. Soberg . . . . . — — —
**Pvt. Charles Tucker . . . . . Toledo, O.
*Pvt. John Unicke . . . . . St. Paul. Minn.

Pvt. Edwin J. Wall . . . . . — — —
**Pvt. Hardy Walters . . . . . — — —
**Pvt. Edward Whitehouse . . . . . — — —
Pvt. James F. Young . . . . . — — —

Company F.

1st Lieut. Carl C. Cramer . . . . . New York City.
1st Lieut. William Wallrich . . . . . Shawano, Wis.

Sgt. Raymond Fisher . . . . . Pine Grove, Pa.
Sgt. David McMinn . . . . . Newport, Ky.
Sgt. William S. Morris . . . . . Quitman, Ga.
Sgt. William H. Vickery . . . . . St. Louis, Mo.
**Cpl. Michael Connolly . . . . . New York City.
**Cpl. Claude M. Delbridge . . . . . — — —
Cpl. Walter H. Hoag . . . . . Jersey City, N. J.
Cpl. John Jacevicz . . . . . Braddock, Pa.
Cpl. John E. Kestler . . . . . Jersey City, N. J.
Cpl. Paul Martin . . . . . Newark, N. J.
**Cpl. Dewey G. Reeves . . . . . — — —
Cpl. Alfred C. Schmitt . . . . . Jersey City, N. J.
Cpl. Jacob Steinkamp . . . . . Bridgeport, Conn.
Mech. Garnett F. Lee . . . . . — — —
**Bug. Lawrence Miller . . . . . — — —
Pvt. Waitman Akers . . . . . Christianburg, Va.
**Pvt. Jesse Beacham . . . . . — — —
Pvt. Steve Bishop . . . . . — — —
Pvt. John Brown . . . . . — — —
Pvt. William C. Brown . . . . . — — —
Pvt. Antonio Brussi . . . . . — — —
Pvt. Archie Cook . . . . . — — —
Pvt. Perry W. Crabtree . . . . . Columbus, O.
Pvt. Arthur Crees . . . . . Atkinson, Va.
**Pvt. Harry Davenport . . . . . — — —
**Pvt. Leonard P. Deavons . . . . . — — —
Pvt. August DePersio . . . . . Olevano, Romano, Italy.
Pvt. Arthur Dodd . . . . . — — —
*Pvt. Chap J. Elmore . . . . . — — —
**Pvt. William Fleming . . . . . — — —

Pvt. Vern J. Fullerton . . . . . — — —
Pvt. Lorenzo Galone . . . . . New York City.
**Pvt. James J. Garvey . . . . . Troy, N. Y.
Pvt. Albert P. Gumm . . . . . — — —
Pvt. Wiley H Grubb . . . . . — — —
Pvt. Arthur Halburg . . . . . — — —
Pvt. Charles Hall . . . . . Red Springs, S. C.
Pvt. Clayton Hammonds . . . . . — — —
**Pvt. Chauny Hasbrouck . . . . . — — —
Pvt. Alfred T. Henkels . . . . . Spechts Ferry, Ia.
Pvt. Silas Hess . . . . . — — —
**Pvt. Thomas D. House . . . . . — — —
**Pvt. Lewis B. Hunt . . . . . — — —
Pvt. George E. King . . . . . Providence, R. I.
**Pvt. Hyman Komesar . . . . . Rochester, N. Y.
Pvt. Nick Komestakes . . . . . — — —
Pvt. Martin Koski . . . . . — — —
Pvt. Steven Kowesza . . . . . Jersey City, N. J.
Pvt. Harry Lederman . . . . . Bronx, N. Y.
Pvt. Garnett Leeker . . . . . Jersey City, N. J.
**Pvt. Harry Levenstein . . . . . — — —
Pvt. Morris T. Matkins . . . . . — — —
**Pvt. Dave Matney . . . . . — — —
Pvt. Claude H. McQuarry . . . . . — — —
Pvt. Charlie O. Moseley . . . . . — — —
**Pvt. Bonus Neblechok . . . . . — — —
**Pvt. Alex Nowojsky . . . . . — — —
**Pvt. Frank T. O'Toole . . . . . Bridgeport, Conn.
**Pvt. William Oehlerking . . . . . — — —
Pvt. Sam Parker . . . . . Montvale, Va.
Pvt. Harold V. Patriquin . . . . . — — —
Pvt. John Perna . . . . . West Point, Ark.
**Pvt. Walter H. Peters . . . . . — — —
Pvt. William Petrowicz . . . . . Trenton, N. J.
Pvt. Keister Piaski . . . . . — — —
Pvt. Peter Ragulia . . . . . — — —
Pvt. Horatio W. Rankin . . . . . — — —
Pvt. Ott Rasor . . . . . — — —
Pvt. Art W. Rawson . . . . . Meridian, Miss.

Pvt. Pritchard Reynolds . . . . . Lima, O.
Pvt. William G. Rodler . . . . . — — —
Pvt. Jan Sakl . . . . . Gardner, Mass.
Pvt John R. Shaw . . . . . — — —
Pvt. Roy Simpson . . . . . Mount Union, Pa.
Pvt. Morris Smallwood . . . . . — — —
Pvt. George C. Smart . . . . . Beaumont, Tex.
Pvt. John P. Smith . . . . . — — —
Pvt. Peter Sokol . . . . . — — —
**Pvt. Petro Solvitti . . . . . — — —
**Pvt. Charles H. Sprout . . . . . — — —
**Pvt. Arthur E Stearers . . . . . White Pigeon, Mich.
**Pvt. Mamie L. Stewart . . . . . — — —
*Pvt. John T. Stinson . . . . . — — —
Pvt. George Straga . . . . . — — —
**Pvt. James C. Swafford . . . . . — — —
**Pvt. Fred Taft . . . . . — — —
**Pvt. Philip Terry . . . . . — — —
**Pvt. John I. Thomas . . . . . Billings, Mich.
**Pvt. William A. Thomas . . . . . — — —
Pvt. Robert J. Tracey . . . . . — — —
**Pvt. Percy G. Tripp . . . . . Bangor, Me.
**Pvt. Clifford Van Horn . . . . . Duck Creek, Wis.
Pvt. Archiel Van Nootingham . . . . — — —
Pvt. Anthony W. Vittitow . . . . . Ripley, Miss.
**Pvt. Charlie N. Walton . . . . . — —
Pvt. Willie M. Westbrook . . . . . Bude, Miss.
**Pvt. Valentine Wheeler . . . . . — — —
**Pvt. William E. White . . . . . Booneville, Miss.
Pvt. Emmet Wilkinson . . . . . — — —
**Pvt. Burkitt Windham . . . . . Booneville, Miss.
**Pvt. George F. Woods . . . . . — — —
Pvt. John Worley . . . . . — — —
**Pvt. William F. Young . . . . . Butler, Miss.
Pvt. Adam Zadinoski . . . . . — —

Company G.

1st Lieut. Kenneth P. Murray . . . . Mount Vernon, N. Y.
1st Lieut. Mercer M. Phillips . . . . . Acworth, Ga.

2nd Lieut. Fabian Doscher . . . . . Brooklyn, N. Y.

Sgt. Joseph A. Folwell . . . . . Forrest, Ill.
Sgt. William P. Kelly . . . . . Fulton, Kan.
Sgt. Peter G. Martinsen . . . . . Brooklyn, N. Y.
Sgt. Alexander Newell . . . . . Chicago, Ill.
Sgt. Louis C. Rupholdt . . . . . Goshen, Ind.
Sgt. Henry Thompson . . . . . St. Louis, Mo.
Cpl. Alexander Artman . . . . . Sheboygan, Wis.
**Cpl. Frank Cleary . . . . . — — —
Cpl. Jesse Cronk . . . . . — — —
Cpl. Charles H. Erickson . . . . . Birmingham, Ala.
**Cpl. Charles W. Hitchens . . . . . Celina, O.
Cpl. Clarence H. Hosier . . . . . Martello, Md.
Cpl. James G. Lenski . . . . . —
Cpl. Anton Misek . . . . . New York City
Cpl. Harry Rocker . . . . . — — —
**Pvt. Robert Baldwin . . . . . — — —
*Pvt. Andrew J. Burner . . . . . — — —
Pvt. Rubin J. Butler . . . . . Hightower, Ala.
Pvt. Jesse Campbell . . . . . —
Pvt. Willie Carr . . . . . — — —
**Pvt. Chester Carter . . . . . Aplin, Ark.
Pvt. Oakey Colley . . . . . — — —
Pvt. Richard L. Crawford . . . . . — — —
Pvt. Leslie P. Fewell . . . . . — — —
Pvt. Isaac H. Gibson . . . . . — — —
Pvt. Harvey P Gingrich . . . . . — — —
Pvt. Robert G. Goldsby . . . . . — — —
Pvt. Jefferson Gordon . . . . . — — —
Pvt. Frank Grynasewski . . . . . Brooklyn, N. Y.
Pvt. Newton Harmon . . . . . — — —
Pvt. Stuart M. Herrington . . . . . — — —
Pvt. William E. James . . . . . — — —
Pvt. Waldemar Jensen . . . . . — — —
Pvt. Iver Johnson . . . . . — — —
*Pvt. Walter Keehn . . . . . — — —
Pvt. Grover C. King . . . . . — — —
Pvt. Frank Korjcki . . . . . Worcester, Mass.
Pvt. Charles J. Lauth . . . . . Newark, N. J.

Pvt. George W. Looney . . . . . — — —
**Pvt. Tilman O. Lyle . . . . . — — —
**Pvt. Herman B. Machande . . . . . — — —
Pvt. Robert B. Maphis . . . . . — — —
Pvt. Manuel Martinez . . . . . — — —
Pvt. Joseph Mastromonzco . . . . . — — —
Pvt. Jim G. McCollum . . . . . — — —
Pvt. Thomas McGovern . . . . . Jersey City, N. J.
Pvt. Nicholas Pitt . . . . . — — —
Pvt. Thomas J. Pound . . . . . — — —
Pvt. Thomas V. Price . . . . . — — —
**Pvt. Cullen Rawls . . . . . — — —
Pvt. James T. Rayle . . . . . — — —
Pvt. John Redlecki . . . . . — — —
Pvt. Ferdinand C. Schneider . . . . . — — —
Pvt. John L. Sheets . . . . . — — —
Pvt. John Sibiles . . . . . Chicago, Ill.
Pvt. Andrew Skibinski . . . . . — — —
Pvt. Arthur L. Smith . . . . . Waukegan, Ill.
Pvt. Hascal C. Smith . . . . . — — —
Pvt. Aniello Stango . . . . . — — —
*Pvt. Fred C. Subcliff . . . . . — — —
*Pvt. Willie Tedder . . . . . — — —
Pvt. Clarence Tracey . . . . . Rochester, N. Y.
*Pvt. Wilsie A. Tudor . . . . . — — —
**Pvt. Gilbert M. Walker . . . . . Brockton, Mass.
Pvt. John J. Waltman . . . . . — — —
**Pvt. Paul Waters . . . . . — — —
**Pvt. Russell E. Widgeon . . . . . — — —
Pvt. Earl B. Williams . . . . . — — —
Pvt. Sam Wilson . . . . . — — —
**Pvt. Lester Wolverton . . . . . — — —

Company H.

*Captain James B. Austin . . . . . Omaha, Neb.
2nd Lieut. Frank L. Young . . . . . Florence Ala.

Sgt. Frank E. Meyer . . . . . Loneaville, Ind.
*Cpl. Harry B. Bartlett . . . . . Katy, Tex.

Cpl. Carl Blackwell . . . . . — — —
Cpl. Charles M. Cockle . . . . . Bronson, Mich.
Cpl. John Connors . . . . . Pawtucket, R. I.
**Cpl. Percy C. Graham . . . . . Staten Island, N. Y.
Cpl. Walter H. Hollis . . . . . Yonkers, N. Y.
*Cpl. Charlie McCoin . . . . . Goddard, Kan.
*Cpl. Raymond W. Mcro . . . . . Bristol, Conn.
Cpl. Abe Short . . . . . Aurora, Ark.
Cpl. Charles A. Werle . . . . . — — —
Pvt. Charles E. Alka . . . . . Mt. Carmel, Ill.
**Pvt. Emil H. Bangert . . . . . — — —
Pvt. George H. Beffrey . . . . . — — —
Pvt. Glen L. Bevis . . . . . — — —
Pvt. Robert Blacker . . . . . Petersburg, Va.
**Pvt. Gerhard W. Brooks . . . . . — — —
**Pvt. Frank F. Brugger . . . . . — — —
**Pvt. Leo F. Burgess . . . . . — —
**Pvt. Frank Z. Byers . . . . . Labelle, Mo.
**Pvt. Charley Campbell . . . . . — — —
**Pvt. Joseph E. Carroll . . . . . — — —
**Pvt. Finley Chisholm . . . . . Carsonville, Mich.
Pvt. Harper M. Cline . . . . . Glenmont, O.
*Pvt. Mathew Curtain . . . . . — —
*Pvt. Joseph Cyphers . . . . . Meriden, Conn.
*Pvt. Eventus S. Doud . . . . . Rossville, Kan.
Pvt. Earl W. Eller . . . . . Seattle, Wash.
Pvt. William E. Evans . . . . . — — —
**Pvt. James O. Furbay . . . . . — — —
**Pvt. Clifford C. Gibbs . . . . . — —
Pvt. Herbert E. Gildemeister . . . . . Chicago, Ill.
Pvt. Leon P. Goff . . . . . Pittsburgh, Pa.
**Pvt. Johnny R. Green . . . . . — — —
*Pvt. Joseph C. Harcum . . . . . Franklin, Va.
**Pvt. George Henion, Jr. . . . . Sloatsburgh, N. Y.
Pvt. William J. Hicks . . . . . — — —
Pvt. David E. Hill . . . . . Amherst, O.
**Pvt. Oscar L. Huffman . . . . . — — —
Pvt. Henry Ingle . . . . . Bowling Green, Va.
*Pvt. Arthur E. Jones . . . . . — — —

*John Q. Jones . . . . . — — —
**Pvt. John M. Kaminski . . . . . — — —
**Pvt. Dennis Kruger . . . . . — — —
**Pvt. Andy Lackey . . . . . — — —
**Pvt. Gomer W. Lewis . . . . . — — —
**Pvt. Edward Litchen . . . . . St. Louis, Mo.
Pvt. Daniel E. Locke . . . . . — — —
**Pvt. William W. Logan . . . . . — — —
**Pvt. Louis Luteneki . . . . . — — —
**Pvt. Abraham McMahon . . . . . New Weston, O.
**Pvt. Frank M. Miller . . . . . — — —
Pvt. Elijah Minnick . . . . . — — —
**Pvt. Lafayette H. Morgan . . . . . — — —
Pvt. Joseph N. Murray . . . . . — — —
**Pvt. Edwin P. Neer . . . . . — — —
**Pvt. George H. Parson . . . . . — — —
**Pvt. James H. Pitts . . . . . — — —
Pvt. Ernest C. Purkes . . . . . — — —
Pvt. Zygmont Rasczik . . . . . — — —
Pvt. Michael Roy . . . . . — — —
Pvt. Samuel Rubin . . . . . — — —
**Pvt. Stanly Sadowski . . . . . — — —
Pvt. James R. Samuel . . . . . — — —
Pvt. William A. Seekford . . . . . Alma, Va.
**Pvt. John Sieklucki . . . . . Jersey City. N. J.
**Pvt. Marion I. Speers . . . . . — — —
Pvt. Sam Stern . . . . . Richmond, Va.
Pvt. Carl C. Stoller . . . . . New Philadelphia, O.
Pvt. Joseph A. Swartz . . . . . Washington, O.
*Pvt. John L. Vellines . . . . . Caroline, Va.
*Pvt. Chester Weddle . . . . . — — —
Pvt. John Woznick . . . . . — — —
**Pvt. Julian Zawistowski . . . . . —

Company I.

1st Lieut. Clarence M. Collord . . . Washington, D. C.
**Sgt. Vincent Barry . . . . . — —
Sgt. Israel Goldberg . . . . . — —
**Cpl. Frank L. Barber . . . . . — —

Cpl. Carl Mercush . . . . . — — —
Cpl. Erwin O. Sheffer . . . . . — — —
**Cpl. Frederick S. Wells . . . . . Red Bank, N. J.
*Pvt. Ralph Ball . . . . . — — —
**Pvt. Homer B. Benson . . . . . — — —
Pvt. Henry G. Berry . . . . . — — —
**Pvt. Norman R. Butts . . . . . — — —
Pvt. Ludwig Coy . . . . . Wild Rose, N. D.
Pvt. Harold A. Clark . . . . . Malta, Mont.
**Pvt. Charles F. Deyo . . . . . — — —
Pvt. Louis R. Eichbichler . . . . . — — —
**Pvt. Walter E. Eubank . . . . . — — —
Pvt. Even Evens . . . . . — — —
**Pvt. Charley D. Fairchild . . . . . Longdale, Okla.
**Pvt. Andrew J. Fischer . . . . . — — —
Pvt. Daner G. Folden . . . . . — — —
Pvt. Henry A. Foster . . . . . — — —
Pvt. William R. Hannon . . . . . — — —
Pvt. Louis H. Hoeing . . . . . — — —
Pvt. Alva L. Lichliter . . . . . — — —
Pvt. Jim Light . . . . . — — —
*Pvt. Charles Miellentz . . . . . — — —
*Pvt. James Munn . . . . . — — —
Pvt. Dennis J. Needham . . . . . — — —
**Pvt. Samuel K. Newell . . . . . — — —
Pvt. Joseph C. W. Newman . . . . . — — —
Pvt. Lanthus Nowlin . . . . . — — —
Pvt. Clarence Oldrich . . . . . — —
Pvt. Rafael G. Palacios . . . . . — — —
**Pvt. Will Pharis . . . . . — — —
Pvt. Joseph Sottosante . . . . . Union Hill, N. J.
Pvt. James Tudor . . . . . — — —
Pvt. Samuel Weintraub . . . . . — — —
Pvt. Frank Zitaitis . . . . . Baltimore, Md.

Company K.

1st Lieut. David L. Wood, Jr. . . . . Pawtucket, R. I.

Sgt. Ernest D. Gordon . . . . . Chicago, Ill.

**Sgt. Samuel S. E. Henning	Clear Creek, Tenn.
**Sgt. Francis A. McShane	Philadelphia, Pa.
**Sgt. Randolph Rogers	Grand Rapids, Mich.
Sgt. Daniel B. Wright, Jr.	Providence. R. I.
**Cpl. George S. Ambrose	Wilkesbarre, Pa.
Cpl. Roy Bardelli	— —
Cpl. Edward Bell	— — —
Cpl. Dwight J. Cowles	Kansas City, Kan.
Cpl. Opie Dobyns	— —
Cpl. Roy L. Hoffman	Middletown, Md.
**Cpl. Melvin C. McFadden	— — —
Cpl. Jesse D. Sullivan	— — —
Mech. Gustave Emmel	Dorchester, Mass.
Pvt. Harry H. Bell	Kahoka, Mo.
Pvt. Willie J. Blackwell	— — —
Pvt. Gustave D. Bonniwill	— — —
**Pvt. Wiley H. Branscome	— — —
Pvt. Charley Cravens	— — —
Pvt. Rufus E. Cullers	— — —
Pvt. George K. Curtis	— —
Pvt. Adam C. Doerr	Milwaukee, Wis.
Pvt. Walter Dollar	— —
Pvt. Clifford Dunn	Newark, N. J.
Pvt. Laroy Farst	— — —
Pvt. John Fedrick	— —
Pvt. Robert R. Ferguson	— —
*Pvt. James M. Folden	— — —
Pvt. Philip Goldstein	New York City.
Pvt. Ray K. Hampele	— — —
**Pvt. Eugene F. Hill	— —
Pvt. George D. Jackson	— — —
**Pvt. Martin Jackson	— —
**Pvt. Philipo Marino	St. Louis, Mo.
Pvt. Emmet L. McCullough	— — —
**Pvt. Foster E. Meeks	— —
Pvt. Gus W. Mills	— — —
Pvt. William H. Moore	
Pvt. Clyde E. Pickering	
Pvt. Allen Shipp	— — —

Pvt. Shelby Sitz . . . . . — — —
Pvt. Harold Stewart . . . . . — — —
Pvt. O'Ferral N. Suiter . . . . . — — —
Pvt. Elwin Sweney . . . . . Whitman, Mass.
Pvt. John Zepinsky . . . . . — — —

Company L.

Sgt. Harry S. Hodge . . . . . New York City.
Cpl. Albert Meyers . . . . . Newark, N. J.
Cpl. James Shaw . . . . . New Bedford, Mass.
Cpl. Jackson R. Tardy . . . . . Murat, Va.
Cpl. Carl A. Zemke . . . . . — — —
Bug. William C. Jones . . . . . Boston, Mass.
**Pvt. John Ball . . . . . Swords Creek, Va.
Pvt. Edward C. Bennett . . . . . — — —
**Pvt. Thomas M. Brents . . . . . — — —
Pvt. Lowell L. Butcher . . . . . — — —
**Pvt. Felix W. Dawson . . . . . — — —
Pvt. Holly L. Goodman . . . . . — — —
Pvt. William Hall . . . . . — — —
Pvt. Jacob Hettler . . . . . Newark, N. J.
Pvt. Robert T. Hunter . . . . . — — —
**Pvt. Harry S. Johnson . . . . . — — —
Pvt. James I. Kelly . . . . . Renovo, Pa.
Pvt. Aloysius Matt . . . . . — — —
Pvt. Irvan Miller . . . . . — — —
Pvt. Antone Morris . . . . . New Bedford, Mass.
Pvt. Willie E. Morris . . . . . — — —
Pvt. Robert Neel . . . . . — —
Pvt. Paul J. Palanick . . . . . Syracuse, N. Y.
**Pvt. Frank Pasqua . . . . . — — —
Pvt. George Pickett . . . . . — — —
Pvt. Louis E. Roedner . . . . . St. Louis, Mo.
Pvt. Mike Revitski . . . . . New York City.
Pvt. Charles Saules . . . . . — — —
Pvt. Henry W. Schoener . . . . . — — —
Pvt. Lex Shields . . . . . — — —
**Pvt. Lowell L. Sowle . . . . . — — —
Pvt. Ralph P. Stambaugh . . . . . Washington, D. C.

**Pvt. William F. Stokes . . . . . — — —
**Pvt. Frank Tangle . . . . . — — —
Pvt. Floyd F. Teeters . . . . . — — —

Company M.

Ist Lieut. Edgar A. Fisher . . . . . Oriska, N. D.
2nd Lieut. James A. Johnson . . . . St. Petersburg, Fla.

Sgt. Harry F. Best . . . . . Jersey City, N. J.
Sgt. George F. Green . . . . . East Walpole, Mass.
Cpl. Orville L. Easterday . . . . . — — —
Cpl. Daniel J. Harvey . . . . . New Haven, Conn.
Cpl. Raymond Hendricks . . . . . — — —
**Pvt. Arthur Allen . . . . . — — —
Pvt. Fred Allen . . . . . — — —
Pvt. Floyd Benbrook . . . . . — — —
Pvt. Otto Brunner . . . . . — — —
Pvt. George W. Cater . . . . . — — —
Pvt. Lester Crowder . . . . . — — —
**Pvt. Adam J. Drotz . . . . . — — —
Pvt. James W. Dease . . . . . — — —
Pvt. Morris Dublinsky . . . . . — — —
**Pvt. Grady Earnhard . . . . . — — —
**Pvt. Irving Florman . . . . . — — —
Pvt. Walker A. Gaines . . . . . — — —
Pvt. John Goings . . . . . — — —
**Pvt. Leonard H. Good . . . . . — — —
**Pvt. Henry Gordon . . . . . — — —
Pvt. Charles C. Haley . . . . . — — —
**Pvt. Willie F. Harper . . . . . — — —
**Pvt. Thomas S. Holder . . . . . — — —
**Pvt. Olie Howell . . . . . — — —
**Pvt. James D. Hudson . . . . . — — —
Pvt. John A. Jennings . . . . . — — —
**Pvt. Perry A. Johns . . . . . — — —
**Pvt. Arthur J. Johnson . . . . . — — —
Pvt. Lewis H. Klopfer . . . . . — — —
**Pvt. William S. Lawson . . . . . — — —
Pvt. Edward Lemoine . . . . . — — —

Pvt. Reece A. Maiden
**Pvt. William Matson
Pvt. Beulah G. Macks
Pvt. Charles Milam
Pvt. William C. Miller . . . . . Hamden, Conn.
Pvt. John Mintcher
**Pvt. Delbert D. Morgan
Pvt. Charles M. Mohr
Pvt. John J. Nagle
Pvt. John F. Nipper
**Pvt. Virg Peterson
Pvt. Clarence A. Poe
Pvt. Grover Powell
Pvt. John Province
Pvt. Verlin R. Prince
**Pvt. George A. Radey
**Pvt. Albert Rathke
Pvt. Harry B. Roberts
**Pvt. John G. Reid
**Pvt. Albert E. Reiger
Pvt. Roman Schneider
Pvt. Thomas R. Taylor
Pvt. Albert A. Villmer
Pvt. Robert A. Vogt
**Pvt. Lawrence Wagers . . . . . Glowmar, Ky.
**Pvt. Henry Weigel
Pvt. Garland Wright
Pvt. Jacob Yampole

Headquarters Co.

Sgt. John G. Brotherton . . . . . New York City.
Pvt. Robert C. Arvin . . . . . Leighton, Ky.
Pvt. John A Baccus . . . . . Woodhaven, N. Y.
*Pvt. Richard H. Berninger . . . . . Greenleaf, Kan.
Pvt. John C. Hoffman . . . . . Elyria, O.
**Pvt. Gaines Large . . . . . Schoolfield, Va.
Pvt. Charles T. Noonan . . . . . Lee, Mass
Pvt. Lawrence J. Schauer . . . . . Phillipsberg, Kan.
Pvt Edward C. Schreiber . . . . . Brillion, Wis.

Pvt. Harry Stephanson . . . . . St. Francis, Kan.
Pvt. Ralph Wilkins . . . . . Idaho Springs, Col.
Pvt. Thomas B. Zumwalt . . . . . Flint, Mich.

Machine Gun Co.

Sgt. Grover Sunderland . . . . . Pittsburgh, Pa.
Sgt. Fred W. Tompkins . . . . . Owosso, Mich.
Cpl. George F. Pulse . . . . . West Liberty, Ia.
Pvt. William Arps . . . . . Omaha, Neb.
Pvt. Felix L. Banton . . . . . Madison Heights, Va.
**Pvt. John C. Conley . . . . . — —
**Pvt. Guy Crawford . . . . . Colson, Ky.
Pvt. Horace A. Deitzer . . . . . Troy, O.
Pvt. Lee A. Edwards . . . . . Concord, N. C.
Pvt. John J. Gaynor . . . . . Elizabeth, N. J.
Pvt. Harry J. Lewis . . . . . Fairport, N. Y.
*Pvt. James Maherney . . . . . Roger City, Mich.
Pvt. Saunders P. Pretty . . . . . Cincinnati, O.
*Pvt. Russell B. Rice . . . . . Derryville, N. H.
*Pvt. William Rykus . . . . . Brooklyn, N. Y.
*Pvt. Joseph Stanimer . . . . . Chicago, Ill.
**Pvt. Joseph Steele . . . . . Woodland, Cal.
*Pvt. William Stolle . . . . . Lake City, S. D.
Pvt. Cornelius Van Dam . . . . . Bonestill S. D.
Pvt. William Walter . . . . . Prescott, Ariz.
*Pvt. Charles Wilkinson . . . . . Richmond, Cal.
Pvt. Philip M. Wright . . . . . Timber Lake, S. D.
Pvt. Richard M. Wright . . . . . Tate, Tenn.

Supply Co.

Wag. William J. Duggar . . . . . — — —
Wag. Fred M. Weigel . . . . . Jefferson City, Mo.

Medical Detachment.

Pvt. Arthur L. Clayton . . . . . — — —
**Pvt. Edward M. Kennelly . . . . . Roxbury. Mass.
Pvt. Alibramdo Pieruccionni . . . . . — — —
Pvt. Lionel Sicor . . . . . North Adams, Mass.
Pvt. Anthony J. Youst . . . . . Penn Yan, N. Y.

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